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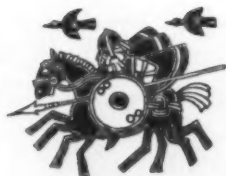
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THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

## CONTENTS

NIELS POULSON. THE FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION. Painting by Th. Jensen, 1910	Frontispiece
A SYMBOL OF UNITY. By Lithgow Osborne	125
THREE SCULPTORS AND THEIR SELF-DESIGNED MEMORIALS. By Edd Winfield Parks. Fourteen Illustrations	129
H. C. HANSEN. IN MEMORIAM. By Carlo Christensen. One Illustration	142
SWEDEN'S OUTDOOR THEATERS. By Dudley Glass. Five Illustrations	145
HANKØ: YACHTSMEN'S ELDORADO. By Christian B. Apenes. Seven Illustrations	153
SCANDINAVIAN FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS: RECENT TRENDS AND EMERGING PROSPECTS. A REPORT ON THE SECOND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON SCANDINAVIA. By John H. Wuorinen	161
THE STORIES OF NONNI. By Mekkin S. Perkins. One Illustration	166
EXCAVATING BERGEN'S HANSEATIC WHARF. By Asbjørn E. Herteig. Nine Illustrations	171
REBILD NATIONAL PARK. By Jens Hvass. Two Illustrations	179
THE WHALE ISLANDS. A SHORT STORY. By Per Wästberg	183
SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICA	188
THE QUARTER'S HISTORY. Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden. One Illustration	191
BOOKS	203
MUSIC NOTES	210
TRAVEL NOTES	211

---

### BOOKS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE:

*The Nordic Council and Co-operation in Scandinavia*, by Frantz Wendt; *The People of Hemsö*, by August Strindberg; *Norwegian-American Studies and Records, Volume XX*; *Norwegian Music—A Brief Survey*, by Kristian Lange and Arne Østvedt; *Four Stories*, by Sigrid Undset.

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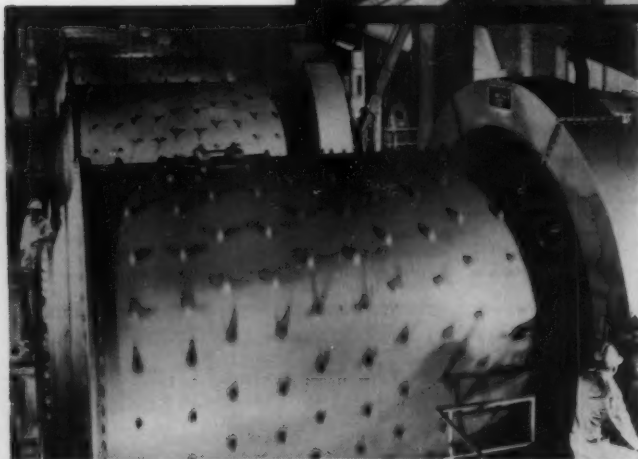


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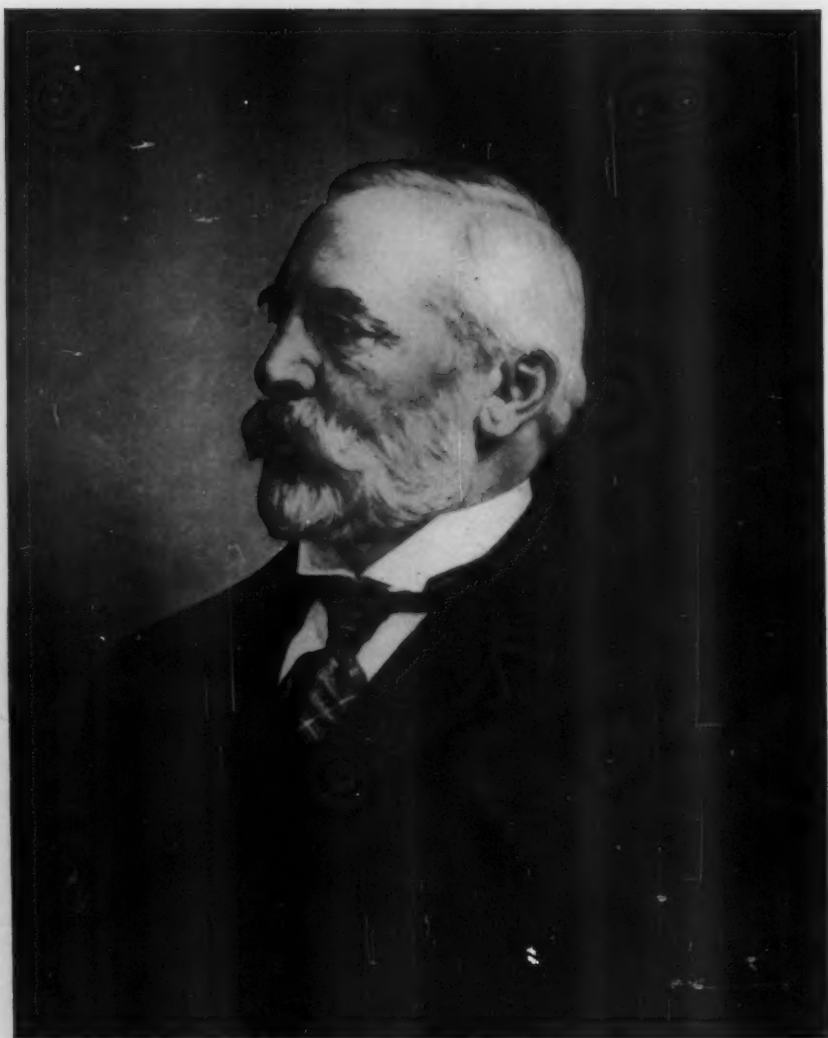
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*The Founder of The American-Scandinavian Foundation*

*Painting by Th. Jensen, 1910.*

# THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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## A SYMBOL OF UNITY

BY LITHGOW OSBORNE

*President of The American-Scandinavian Foundation*

**A** FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, whether it be of an individual or an institution, is a good moment for taking stock, for looking back over the record, for considering the present situation and for looking forward to the future. At this time I would like to do that in connection with The American-Scandinavian Foundation, since we are almost at the beginning of the celebrations marking half a century of its existence.

Looking back I want to refer to two dates: 1843 and 1910. The former is the date of the birth in Horsens, Denmark, of Niels Poulson, the founder of The American-Scandinavian Foundation. It seems to me that Niels Poulson represents—symbolizes—the change from the old Scandinavia to the new. When he was born Christian VIII sat on the Danish throne and ruled—as an absolute monarch—a country which in its social and political institutions was closer to the Middle Ages than to the Denmark we know today—even than to the Denmark Niels Poulson lived to see. Serfdom had been abolished in the eighteenth century but Danish peasants were still bound to the great estates by ties difficult to break.

Niels Poulson was six in 1849 when, after a very mild revolution, the first Danish constitution was granted. Many of its more liberal provisions were later revoked, and it was not until after Niels Poulson left Denmark in 1872 that a parliamentary system was really established.

In 1843 the Norwegians were the lesser partners in an unwanted and uneasy union with Sweden. They had their cherished Eidsvoll Constitution but were engaged in a series of bitter and even violent wrangles with Stockholm as to whether its liberal principles should prevail against the prerogatives of the Crown and the absolutist ideas of those who wore it.

Sweden had a constitution and a parliamentary system of a kind; but here also any sort of popular control of government simply did not exist.

All in all it was a very different Scandinavia from the one we know today—and one that was neither happy nor prosperous. And that doubtless helps to explain why Niels Poulson decided to emigrate to America, like so many of his brethren. There are, of course, several people in and around New York who remember Niels Poulson. I always find it astounding that two lives can cover such vast social and economic changes as have occurred between the Scandinavia of 1843 and the Scandinavia of today. And Poulson's career in this country was an almost classical success story of a young man who by diligence and hard work accumulated a modest fortune.

The second date in the past that I want to mention is 1910—the year before Poulson's death—the year in which he laid the basis for the ASF.

In the United States 1910 marked almost the end of an era, which collapsed in drum-fire and blood four years later. America's foreign policy was to try its very best not to be compelled to bother with a foreign policy. If all nations and peoples would follow our example and simply mind their own business and apply themselves to trade and science and abolish universal military service, everyone could hardly help but be prosperous and happy.

In the Scandinavian countries by 1910 things had moved apace. By hard work and thrift and by showing political and economic wisdom the peoples of Denmark, Norway and Sweden—blessed with very few natural resources as a basis for their economies—were well on their way toward that astonishing political, social and economic development which today is the envy of much of the rest of the world.

But there were plenty of old, scarcely healed sores—certainly in sentiment—between the three. In 1910 the separation between Sweden and Norway which had so nearly resulted in war was only five years in the past. Denmark, which had tried to act as honest broker in the dynastic question but which had finally sent young Prince Carl to become King of Norway, was distrusted by the Swedes; while the Norwegians although they accepted Prince Carl—who as King Haakon eventually became a national hero—still could not quite forget or forgive the fact that their country after centuries of independence had been ruled for 300 years from Copenhagen. As for the Danes, they had fought throughout history with the Swedes and had lost to them, not too far back, three of their fairest provinces.

In 1910 it took imagination, broadmindedness and vision for a man of Danish birth and ancestry to set up not an American-Danish Foundation but an American-Scandinavian Foundation. Niels Poulson could have done the former by a simple stroke of the pen. Clearly he realized that despite all the wars and disagreements and bad blood of the past and despite the divergences of language and of customs and of temperament, there were basic bonds binding the three together which would grow stronger with

the passage of the years and which *should* grow stronger. So he created an American-Scandinavian Foundation.

How right he was. The importance of those bonds has grown mightily. Their development was checked temporarily by World War II but has proceeded at a far more rapid pace since then. Today we see a higher degree of understanding and friendship and practical cooperation between the three than could have been thought possible in 1910—save by Niels Poulson and a few others.

The three countries have come to realize that with a kinship of blood, with a similar geographical position, with a very similar dependence on the sea for their economies but above all with similar political and economic and social views, the forces which bind them together are much stronger than the divisive forces; and they realize that they need each other. And this unity of political and social and economic philosophy applies also, of course, to Iceland and Finland. The Nordic Council, whose influence as a coordinating body has developed amazingly in these last years, is only one of the outward and visible signs of an inner realization that the more unity there is within the group of five, the more all, in the long run, will benefit. The future is forever hidden from us, but certainly all the signs indicate that this unity will increase both in scope and in importance.

Reverting to the Foundation and its Golden Anniversary, I think we can be proud of the record of the last fifty years. Since 1911 the Foundation has financed in whole or in part the graduate study in a wide variety of fields in one of the Scandinavian countries of about 350 American Fellows. We have appointed a large number of Honorary Fellows, whose visits to the Scandinavian countries have been made more profitable to them through the help of our cooperating sister organizations in those countries. We have sponsored a number of American lecturers going to Scandinavia and distinguished Scandinavians coming here.

In 1913 *The American-Scandinavian Review* was started and has been published regularly ever since. Its volumes are a compendium of information about the art, architecture, letters and social and political developments in the Scandinavian countries. It is the only such periodical in the English language and has a world-wide circulation. Our imprint is on more than 80 books either dealing with Scandinavia or translations of Scandinavian classics. These publications have been a great contribution to American scholarship and can be found in most first-class university and public libraries. We have stood sponsor for exhibitions of Scandinavian art and for concerts by orchestras or other musical organizations and helped to promote them. We also maintain a library of Scandinavian books and books about Scandinavia which is available to students and members.

Among many other activities, I would like to single out the program that the ASF has been conducting since 1957 under a special grant from the



Ford Foundation for an exchange of Leaders and specialists between the United States and Finland. Under it we have arranged and managed the visits to the United States of 35 distinguished citizens of Finland and of 16 Americans going to Finland.

The Trainee Program is undoubtedly one of the most constructive and important of all our activities. Under it come about 350 young Scandinavians a year—over 4,000 since World War II—for on-the-job training in factories, in offices, in laboratories and hospitals and on farms to absorb knowledge of American techniques and, almost always, to develop a liking and respect for the United States which we believe they will retain over the years. Occasionally they not only “learn by doing” themselves; they also teach their mentors something about Scandinavian techniques and ideas. The Foundation does not pay these trainees; the trainor pays them a subsistence allowance. They are selected by our sister organizations in Scandinavia; but we help to find the proper spots for them here and assist them with tax, insurance and visa questions.

In these accomplishments the Foundation has, I believe, lived up to Niels Poulson's vision of an American-*Scandinavian* organization. And as to the present, the Foundation is indeed going strong. Our headquarters is a real Scandinavian center which is prepared within its means to promote any activity by any group or organization that will help to make stronger and better traveled the two-way bridge of understanding which has always existed between the Scandinavian peoples and the American people.

A word as to the future: Longfellow once found an inscription on a tombstone in Austria which read in translation: “Look not mournfully into the past; it can never return; wisely improve the present, it is thine; go forth to meet the dim and shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart.”

Those connected with the Foundation certainly do not look mournfully into the past; on the contrary we look very happily into the past. We are seeking hard to improve the present; and we certainly look to the future with hopeful confidence. The Foundation will continue as in the past to attempt to the limit of its capacity to represent that ideal of Scandinavian unity of spirit which was implicit in the terms of Niels Poulson's gift and to promote greater knowledge of Scandinavia in the United States and greater knowledge of the United States in the Scandinavian countries.





*Danish Information Office*

*The Thorvaldsen Museum, situated on the embankment of the canal,  
with the Nikolaj Church in the background.*

## THREE SCULPTORS AND THEIR SELF-DESIGNED MEMORIALS

By EDD WINFIELD PARKS

THE Scandinavian countries have multitudinously varied attractions to entice and enchant the visitor: fjords, mountains, midnight sun, civilized and historic cities, picturesque and equally historic towns, magnificent food, and particularly an unobtrusively cordial welcome. Scandinavia can also boast of three\* unique art museums, each in large measure the personal creation of the artist, and each displaying three entirely different yet enormously exciting types of sculpture. They are neatly divided as to location and arrangement: Copenhagen possesses the classical figures of Bertel Thorvaldsen, displayed with appropriate formality; Stockholm has the stimulatingly eclectic sculptures of Carl Milles in the informality of his own house and garden; and Oslo the vast cycle-of-life work of Gustav Vigeland, imposingly set in a park that he planned and in the studio where he worked. These personally-planned memorials are amazingly different, but each offers its own particular fascination and its own artistic validity. They add three notable attractions to the lure of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

\* The Einar Jónsson Museum in Reykjavík is a fourth.



*Bertel Thorvaldsen*  
*Painting by C. A. Jensen, 1840*

# I

The oldest in years and far the oldest in type of work exhibited is the Thorvaldsen Museum. The Danish sculptor spent most of his adult life in Rome and did most of his work there; his Graeco-Roman figures migrated northward under somewhat curious circumstances. When his Italian rival, Antonio Canova, built a personal museum in his home town of Possagno, Bertel Thorvaldsen was mightily, all-too-humanly irked and annoyed. If Canova deserved a personal memorial, so did he. In 1837 Thorvaldsen offered to Copenhagen all his working models, all his unsold finished statues, and his extensive collections if these could be adequately housed in his native city. The Danes, pleased and impressed, quickly agreed. The next year Thorvaldsen personally approved the architect's designs. King and citizens contributed voluntarily to defray the building expenses; the government sent a naval frigate to bring the sculptor and his enormous, weighty works from Rome to Copenhagen.

Thorvaldsen had a personal share in the planning and early execution of the work. It became his memorial to such an extent that he consented to being buried in the center of the courtyard. After the museum's completion in 1848, his body was moved there; he had died in 1844.



*"Mercury about to Slay Argus."*

*A statue by Thorvaldsen.*

In several respects it is the least exciting of the three museums. Although approved by Thorvaldsen, the building was from the beginning intended to be an official repository. It is formal and rather severe, in spite of the outside murals depicting the bringing home of the sculptor's statues. Basically it is impersonal. The sculpture too fits more exactly into a familiar and recognizable frame than the intensely personal work of Vigeland and Milles. The Dane's training and his period and personal interests all led him to emphasize an objectified, classical approach to his subjects. Room after room is filled with statues, friezes, medallions, plaques and even murals commemorating the grandeur and abiding vitality of Greek and Roman legends—so many, in fact, that the over-hasty tourist may wonder just how many variations can be played on, say, the legend of Cupid. But there is nobility, occasionally pathos, frequently grandeur, and always painstaking artistic craftsmanship in these conventionalized figures. More individualized are the monumental (in both senses of the word) statues of



*Princess Maria Feodorowna  
Bariatsky. A marble statue  
by Thorvaldsen.*

contemporary German and Polish noblemen; if Thorvaldsen had his troubles with them, he revenged himself by endowing them with the traditionally autocratic sneer of cold command. Not all of them; for some he obviously admired and took as much delight in bringing out the man's heroic qualities as he did those of his horse. He was no mean judge of character, and with his sculptor's tools he revealed an astonishing amount of bad as well as the good in human beings.

Most interesting of all are the figures of Christ and the twelve apostles, for the original plastic models in the museum can easily be compared with the finished marble statues in the Cathedral, *Vor Frue Kirke*, only a few blocks away. In either version, the benignant, loving Christ with outstretched welcoming arms is one of the world's most imposing statues. Assuredly he fits well into the Renaissance Italian concept and transcends it, for here is glory and promise, a human figure typifying kindness yet



*Carl Milles*

touched with a transfiguring superhuman mystical quality. Many people justifiably prefer the stronger, rougher model with only a blank wall behind it, to the softer marble framed by appropriate yet distracting ecclesiastical furnishings—but both versions are worth considerably more than a casual look.

## II

If Thorvaldsen belongs in physical time to the early nineteenth century and spiritually to Graeco-Roman classicism, both Milles and Vigeland are in both senses of the twentieth—they are our elder brothers or at most our fathers, not among our remote ancestors. There is a dark star of contemporary appeal that at times speaks more directly and profoundly than greater work out of the past can ever do. However posterity may see fit to judge them, the eclectic Milles and the obsessed Vigeland speak our idiomatic language as of now, though in silent figures which the eye must translate for the ear.



*From the terrace at  
Millesgården.*



*"The Western Steps"  
at Millesgården.*



*American-Swedish News Exchange*

*The terrace at Millesgården*

This is not easy, especially in Vigeland's case. Milles' works are more easily grasped, more immediately satisfying. He has developed through comprehensible phases, and each of these phases can be traced out at his home in Lidingö, just outside of Stockholm—now a museum open to the public.

Millesgården is an intensely personal monument. In 1906 Carl Milles bought land fronting on Lake Vartan, but rising steeply to Herserud Cliff; on top he built a low-slung house that nestles into the land, yet from the porches and upper terraces gives a magnificent view of Stockholm across still waters. Although the first house was built by a comrade of art-student days in Munich, the present one was built by his brother, the architect Evert Milles, and later additions were planned and executed by him. It is a family monument, for some of his wife's paintings are displayed, and the motto on the wrought-iron gate (translated: Let me work while day is bright) was written by his sister, the author and sculptor Ruth Milles. Before and after it became a museum, Millesgården was a home: until his death in 1955, Carl Milles continued to live in one part of it when he was in Sweden. The house and garden reflect directly the personality of its creator and of his immediate family.

The entrance is through an impressive marble portal that once formed part of the Hotel Rydberg, and towering above it is a massive sandstone



*American-Swedish News Exchange*

*From the court-yard at Millesgården.*

column, for Milles liked to have statuary apparently soaring in air. The most remarkable of these technically is his Pegasus, for the man seems barely to touch with one foot a wing of his flying horse. Even more impressive is a magnificent outstretched hand, the hand of God, set majestically on a tall column.

Milles has had many intellectual interests, and from each period he has saved excellently representative pieces. In his student days in Paris he made the poor and needy his subjects, and on the parapet there is a touching work in soapstone depicting two old people sleeping on a bench. There are men at work, and resting after work; portraits of actual men and mythical heroes; maenads, dancing girls, Susanna bathing, Europa and the bull, and a sardonic fat little Jonah being disgorged by the whale; wild boars, elks, wounded horses; and most interesting of all, many late pieces that indicate his interest in religion and spiritism: in addition to the hand, two happy angels playing on ice-skates, and Emanuel Swedenborg kneeling on the zodiac and stretching out one hand as though to touch the occult. The terraces have been landscaped, the pines and birches preserved to give some naturalness to the fountains, the columns, and the majestic sculptured figures.

In what was once his studio are small pieces, studies, and sketches that give an idea of his monumental works in such diverse places as Cranbrook



*Gustav Vigeland*

Academy, Rome, Gothenburg, and Falls Church, Virginia. Here too are his collection of German, French, Italian, Chinese, and classical paintings and sculptures—the most notable among them being his collection of medieval wood-carvings.

But the whole concept is far greater than any of its parts. Here is a garden which is also an outdoor museum, a studio-home that has warmth and color, a natural beauty that has been tastefully intensified yet never spoiled by the artist's achievements. This personal memorial on Herserud Cliff in Lidingö is one of the most exciting and satisfying places one can ever hope to visit.

### III

Many visitors do not find either the Vigeland Museum or the outdoor museum in nearby Frogner Park satisfying, but few can be indifferent to this vast depiction of the cycle of life. Oslo has one advantage over Stockholm and Copenhagen: one can see characteristic work by Milles and Thorvaldsen in many other places, but to see Vigeland's work in its later, best, most provocative, and most characteristic phase it is absolutely necessary to go to Oslo. In 1921 the sculptor made an agreement with the city



*"The Angry Boy", a sculpture  
on the bridge in the Vigeland  
Park.*

that in return for a studio and a living he gave to the corporation all the work that he had on hand, and all that he might do in the future. After his death in 1943 the studio was turned into a museum which houses the original models of sculpture installed in other cities, the working models for the Frogner Park figures, and his numerous sketches and woodcuts.

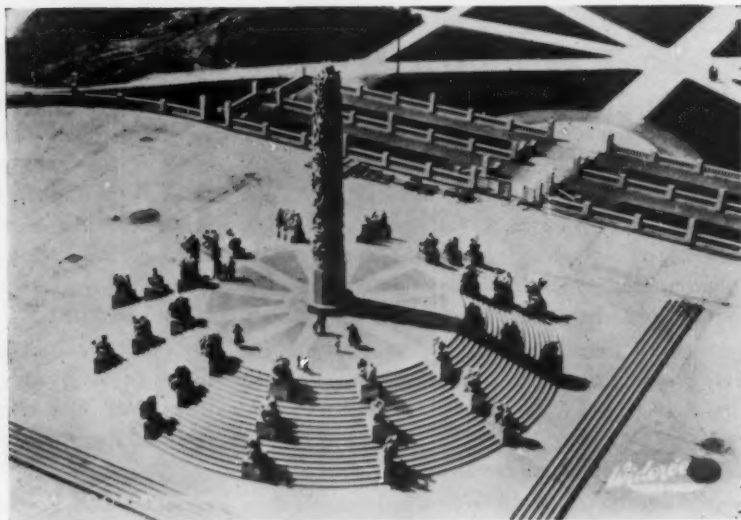
Although Vigeland early in his career had been interested in conventional religion, working on the restoration of Trondheim Cathedral, and although some of his most notable works are memorial figures of famous Norwegians, his obsessive interest in later years was in the cycle of life. Among a group of bronze children there is an embryo standing on its head; from the embryonic form he follows men and women through every stage of development to great age and death. One cycle showing human figures in or beside stylized trees indicates man's evolutionary origins and suggests also Vigeland's interest in modern scientific and psychological theories.

The plan and the work of the park are on the grand scale, but all of it is the personal conception of Gustav Vigeland. He designed the huge wrought-iron gates at the entrance; he planned the bridge that leads to the tremendous, severely plain fountain supported by six bronze men (one of



Norwegian Information Office

*A view of the Vigeland Park.*



Norwegian Information Office

*The Monolith in the Vigeland Park*



*A sculpture in the Vigeland Park.*

them Vigeland himself), and to the gigantic monolith—on whose surface innumerable figures (121 in fact) seem to be fighting their way upward, being crushed down, defeated, killed, but offering a foothold for the strong and aspiring to move upward toward light and sun. Few Scandinavian artists have bothered with fig-leaf; most of them have presented the human figure frankly and exactly, without a snigger but also without apology. Although anatomical detail is incidental in all of Thorvaldsen's work and in most of Milles', the sexual life-force is integral to Vigeland's concept.

One other philosophical idea comes through clearly: to Vigeland, passivity is man's undoing, his greatest sin. The active may not be good, but activity that makes for evil is better than passive acceptance. The theme appears and re-appears, delineated in set of muscles, in bodily posture, and in highly individualized facial expressions.

Neither admirers nor detractors can complain of Vigeland's being passive or inactive. Essentially he became a one-message artist, to the extent that some people are troubled by a monotonous repetition in his vast bronze

and granite groups; but even more people are fascinated by the individual variations in the larger unity. His mind was as busy as his hands, and a powerful if provocative idea dominated the Frogner Park work. Vigeland's development toward that idea can be grasped in the indoor museum. It was a workshop, not a house. Here are the initial plans, the rough beginnings, the grappling toward a final expression, and some of the finished work. Perhaps less satisfying than Millesgården, it expresses well and fascinatingly the obsessed brooding of its creator even while it testifies to his giantlike vitality. Few people can see it without being personally and aesthetically moved.

Every Scandinavian city has many exciting and artistically excellent pieces of statuary (with of course more than a few bad ones, as well). But the single, relatively isolated work rarely makes the strong, unified impression that a large, integrated body of work can give. When a museum or park is planned by the artist to display his own work according to his own taste, we see the work as the man himself wanted it to be seen. That is why more and more people are going to Copenhagen to see Thorvaldsen, to Stockholm to see Milles, and to Oslo to see Vigeland. There the man is revealed in conjunction with his work.

*Professor Edd Winfield Parks is a member of the Department of English in the University of Georgia and was some years ago a Fulbright Lecturer in Denmark. He has traveled widely in the Scandinavian countries and has made a study of their art. He is also a novelist, "Backwater" being the last novel appearing under his name.*





## H. C. HANSEN

### *IN MEMORIAM*

By CARLO CHRISTENSEN

**W**ITHIN a period of five years Denmark has suffered the loss of two great Prime Ministers.

On January 29, 1955, Hans Hedtoft, Prime Minister from 1947 to 1950 and again from 1953, died suddenly at the age of 51, after a heart attack in Stockholm, where he was attending a meeting of the Nordic Council. He was succeeded as Prime Minister by H. C. Hansen.

On February 19, 1960, H. C. Hansen died at the age of 53 in a Copenhagen hospital, from an illness that his friends thought and hoped had been conquered by an extensive operation more than a year earlier.

H. C. Hansen never expected to be Prime Minister of Denmark. Hans Hedtoft was his close friend, and when Hedtoft became chairman of the Danish Social-Democratic Party in 1939 and later Prime Minister, H. C. Hansen looked forward to many years of service under Hedtoft's leadership. Yes, they had planned their political futures together.

There are many parallels between H. C. Hansen and Hans Hedtoft. They grew up together in Århus, in Jutland. There they learned the same trade of printer, and there they became leaders in the youth movement of the Danish labor party. Both were elected to the Folketing, that is, the Danish Parliament, when they were still very young.

In politics, both Hansen and Hedtoft followed the line set forth by the "Grand Old Man" of the Danish Social-Democratic Party, Thorvald Stauning, who decreed in the early 1930's that the party should rally under the slogan, "Denmark for the people" and that it should not remain only the party of the working class.

In later years, H. C. Hansen once said that, if Stauning had lived, Stauning would have followed the line which Hedtoft and Hansen followed after the liberation of Denmark in 1945. Both men were determined that Denmark should never again be left open for occupation. They led the Social-Democratic Party toward a decided change in its views on national defense, and that change paved the way for Danish membership in NATO. It is safe to say that without Hans Hedtoft and H. C. Hansen, Denmark would not have become a member of NATO. They chose to put Denmark on the side of the defenders of freedom.

H. C. Hansen was always interested in foreign affairs. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs under Hedtoft and, after he became Prime Minister, he kept the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs for several years.





*Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

*H. C. Hansen*

This position took him to many countries, and he was several times in the United States, which he had been looking forward to visiting again this year.

H. C. Hansen was liked and admired by all the leaders of the democratic

political parties in Denmark. He could be hard and even sarcastic in debate, but his respect for the opposition never left him. He had friends in every walk of life in Denmark and in many foreign countries. In his message of sympathy to King Frederik IX, President Eisenhower said, "H. C. Hansen was a statesman whose absence will be felt keenly in the future by all of us who appreciated his humanitarian views and valued his many contributions to international understanding."

One cannot write about the passing of H. C. Hansen without remembering his touching speech at the memorial service for Hans Hedtoft five years ago. H. C. Hansen said:

"No man can run away from that from which he arose. It lives with him in his memory, as a heritage and as an obligation. And I want to underscore the word 'obligation' when speaking of Hans Hedtoft. Throughout his life he felt a strong obligation to his origins and he was deeply conscious of his origins at all times. He is one of the most moving testimonies to the fact that out of humble homes, with their narrow confines and modest circumstances, can grow the strength and ability that the country may some day need."

Those words are also a fitting epitaph for H. C. Hansen, the man who became the political leader of Denmark not only through his native ability but also by self-study, self-discipline, and by much hard work.

*Carlo Christensen is Cultural Counselor of the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C.*



## SWEDEN'S OUTDOOR THEATERS

By DUDLEY GLASS

IN THE GOOD Scandinavian company of Bergen, Copenhagen and Helsinki, Stockholm presents a Music Festival each June. But one singing-bird does not constitute a summer; later, in July, other festive occasions awaken the Swedish countryside. Just as shrines of Middle and Southern Europe call their pilgrims, the North can unfold its miracle plays and pageant music dramas with universal themes. Inspired by legend and history, utilizing Swedish types and settings, they make an original contribution to the art of the theater.

Scattered over the land, not as well known as they might be, these open-air productions deserve a wider public. One is to be found in the province of Jämtland, where the pleasant town of Östersund nestles by Lake Storsjön. A bridge connects the little provincial capital with the island of Frösön and leads directly into an ancient world. For if Frösön features installations for the Swedish Air Force, to say nothing of a golf course, it is also steeped in atmosphere as a viking stronghold.

On this once heathen soil stands an elaborately carved rune stone in memory of eleventh-century Östman Gudfastsson, who introduced Christianity to Jämtland. Less substantial is the rumor of the Loch Ness-like monster said to haunt Lake Storsjön.

It is a place for poets and composers. Here lived that imposing figure Wilhelm Peterson-Berger who was both a much-feared music critic and a prolific composer of operas, symphonies, and songs. One of his tone-poems, "By Frö-

sön Church" paints an idyllic neighborhood charmingly, while in *Arnljot* this Swedish Wagner rose to greater heights. His music-drama performed in its entirety at the Stockholm Opera is just as impressive as a drama with incidental music, a "spoken drama" in a natural setting.

Old Bayreuth or the Metropolitan could never devise such effects. The grassy stage levels itself at the foot of an amphitheater; behind it the slope continues down, allowing for unexpected entrances and exits. The wings are groves of beeches and pines, the backcloth a silver lake, a wooded shore, and a range of snow-capped mountains.

Built-up scenery is minimized; for the beginning there is a brown wooden Court House with curious painted signs and pagan dragons on its roof. Willing hands remove this quickly during the interval replacing it with a Lapp hut, with reindeer horns over the door. As for properties, three rough-hewn stones suffice, serving as seats; unless you include the artistic amplifiers, gray-green poles mounting guard on either side.

Against this simplicity the rich costumes are all the more colorful. They come from theatrical wardrobes in Stockholm, but might belong to a past Frösön: embroidered tunics for the guardians of the Court House raising curved lur-horns, gallant helmets and cloaks for the chieftains and their followers, blue robes and head-veils for the women.

Echoes of *The Ring*—but the action is simpler, swifter-moving. *Arnljot*, a



*A scene from "Arnljot," as performed at Frösön*

returning viking warrior, finds his betrothed Gunhild married to another. Quick-tempered he kills his rival at a Court session. No longer can he be elected chieftain of an independent Jämtland; it means outlawry instead.

Hiding in the woods, he is befriended by a Lapp girl, only to fall into the hands of a star-capped sorcerer who works a spell to find where his inherited treasure lies hidden. In a hypnotic sleep Arnljot hears another chant, a portent of the new religion being preached at Trondheim. By chance he has met Gunhild, taking her infant son across the border to nearby Norway, and she has told him how King Olav is rallying followers to the banner of the Cross.

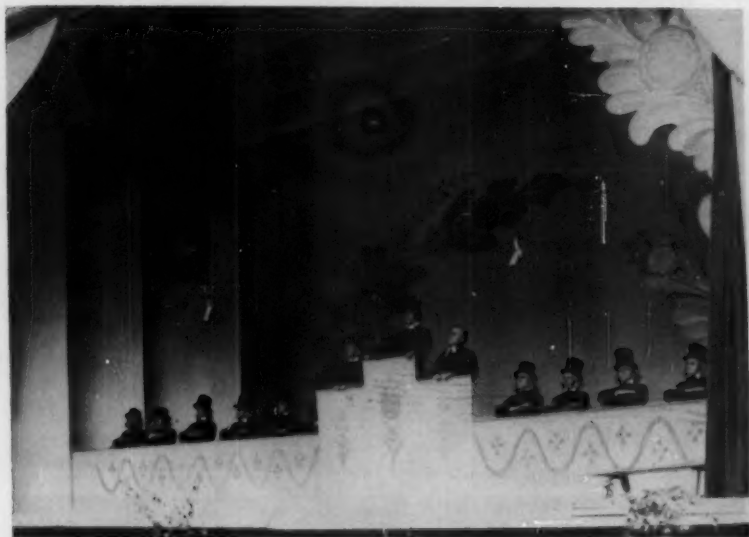
On the battlefield of Stiklestad, Olav—later to become a saint—and his body-guard face a rebellious army of peasants. Bards lift their voices in improvised song, none more fervently than Arnljot. He who has never served an-

other man will offer his life for the King. When struck mortally by an arrow he knows his redemption has come through Christianity. With a stone for his pillow he has a last word on his lips—"Jämtland"—for his own forgiving folk have come for him.

"Beautiful is the tale  
Although it ends in death.  
We must carry him home  
over the mountains."

No opera stars declaim this saga, only the resonant voices of a local cast: farm workers, teachers, and clerks. Arnljot makes a striking contribution, from a first entrance when he looks at the panorama of his land and gives a pledge to live, work, and die there—an unsung aria. The occasional music is always in character, whether it portrays brave deeds in fanfares, Lapp mystery in unaccompanied strains or tenderer moments in atmospheric harmonies.

Sometimes the production is naive,



*The District Court in "The Play of Heaven"*

as when the hero holds many men at bay with a single spear in movie star fashion or tumbles them over that convenient slope. But this is forgotten in the scenic effects: the glow of sunset touching crowds dressed in primitive colors, burnishing rows of spears—the blue veil of night falling on misty mountains. Barbaric times are as near as is the Norway of Arnljot's wanderings.

In the heart of Sweden, Dalarna preserves much of its old peasant culture to this day. Traditional costumes and handicrafts abound; there are songs and dances to pipes and fiddles. By another lake—Siljan, the blue "eye" of Dalarna according to an early tourist, Hans Christian Andersen—the little town of Leksand has a summer spectacle in keeping. Its greenest meadow is planted

with a toylike stage standing under a tall maypole wreathed with birch-leaves. All day long the curtain remains up, for passers-by to admire a painted scene studded with unusual flowers. They are derived from the "Dal Paintings", Biblical story-pictures once sold by traveling artists to lonely farmhouses needing Paradise on their walls.

This stage offers *Himlaspelet*, "A Play about a Way which Goes to Heaven", based on the seven pictures introduced by a painter, brush in hand. First comes a District Court, with a formal row of blacksuited, top-hatted figures frowning on Marit, a country girl. Thought to be a witch in league with the Devil, she is to be burned, but Our Lord—a dignified, whitehaired gentleman—saves her in time, leading her gently off.

The rest of the story concerns the adventures of Mats, the young peasant



A scene from "The Play of Heaven"

who loses her. Convinced of her innocence, he decides to journey to Heaven and plea for a proper judgment. His long path has elements of Salzburg's *Everyman* and the American Negro *The Green Pastures*, but Dalarna colors it most. A hill inscribed "Elias, Jonas, Jeremias" shows the three prophets, only they are peasants in leather aprons, laughing with the twittering birds, coughing in comedy as they give advice and wave farewell.

After watching a group of schoolboys carrying lanterns as they sing Latin hymns, Mats steps into another painting where sheep gambol on the pasture and winged angels sing. It might be his journey's end, but a shoemaker tempts him at the crossroads, the Devil being as ever a persuasive baritone. So he takes a different road, to the tall buildings of Jerusalem, to find a garlanded, candle-lit mansion replete with

Swedish food, wine, and music. King Solomon, naturally a resplendent hussar, urges him to drink more than his fill, then suddenly weeps, at the moving curtain, to see him in a stupor.

Many years pass; hard-faced Mats wears a purple robe and bows from a rich man's balcony. Successful in wars, he parades a grotesque army. As he munches flat-bread to his heart's content, Our Lord comes in the guise of Poor Lazarus to sit on the stairs and warn him that money is not all. On his deathbed the sinner repents to the chime of church-bells.

Regaining his youth, he reaches Heaven at last, symbolized by a white wall marked "Paradise for the Lost". Our Lord is there to meet him, but now Mats is too timid to ask for Marit's salvation. All he needs is a glimpse of her—and is allowed to step through a green door to find her in Paradise, which hap-





Folke Mogren

*A scene from "Petrus de Dacia," as performed among  
the ruins of Visby*

pens to be his father's farm.

The singer Busk Margit Jonsson plays Marit, while the important part of Mats is acted and sung by Rune Lindström, who also wrote the text of *Himlaspelet*. A native of Leksand and now a prominent script writer for motion pictures, he studied theology in youth at Uppsala. Despite some church opposition at the start, his morality play has been revived for more than twenty summers, a perennial flower in the garden of Dalarna.

On the Baltic island of Gotland medieval Visby shows visitors its age-old walls and stepped gables of Hanseatic times. They find other flowers of stone in this "city of ruins and roses",

and none is finer than the Priory Church of St. Nicholas. On summer evenings a festival stage within the roofless masonry presents a dramatic pageant-opera round the life of Petrus de Dacia, a twelfth-century prior believed to be buried in the chancel.

Thus added interest is lent to a tale of a warring period when the youth Petrus, wrongly suspected of spying by the soldiery, seeks refuge among the Black Brothers. Their prior Walter accepts him into the Order. Later, when aged, he asks him to step into his place. This is only done after the doubting Petrus receives a sign, a vision of the Madonna and at the same time a remembrance of Kristina the Healer, whose life he has been recording in his



lonely cell. He met her years ago and can recall her words:

"Do you remember when you came to me for the first time with Brother Walter? In that moment the Lord appeared to me and I heard Him say: Look carefully on this man, because he is your friend and shall always be it . . . And he is going to be with you in the Eternal Life."

Solemn bells and "Veni Creator Spiritu", once sung by Petrus in the church, bring the inspired occasion to a close. An audience wishful to linger under the haunted arches is guided by torchlight flares into Visby's dark, narrow streets, whose traffic has been hushed.

*Petrus de Dacia* has also the human story of its making. Thirty years ago the composer Friedrich Mehler visited Visby and was impressed by the ruins, first seen in a thunderstorm. He settled in the town and taught music, one of his pupils being Joseph Lundahl, a physician, who wrote the text of his opera. Composed in the modal manner and first produced in 1929, it has been constantly built over the years and is now performed in full musicality by a string orchestra, flute, oboe, and two organs. Soloists are from Stockholm; a choir does justice to the old liturgical themes. But there is a flower pressed in the pages and a sentimental dedication to his wife Hilde, who helps him with details of production while their son arranges the lighting.

As with *Arnljot*, the pictorial quality lingers in the mind. The great illuminated altar-piece recalls St. Nicholas' past; the procession of black-caped brothers and scarlet-clad nuns with candles bring its deserted aisles to life. The most remarkable effect of all is

the empty bay-window glowing with sunset hues. Its stained glass might still be there,—those red carbuncle jewels stolen by freebooters, to be lost in the sea which murmurs so close. Only imaginative fishermen see them of evenings gleaming under the waves, while the beauty of *Petrus de Dacia* is for the world to enjoy.

Such are the offerings in Sweden's romantic corners, but Stockholm is not to be outdone. Sponsored by the Municipality the "Park Theater" on wheels has come to rest in a square of the Old City, to be watched by high, crumbling walls, casement windows, a church steeple and a refreshingly old-fashioned audience on benches. They drink in the antics of Harlequin and his fellows in Italian *Commedia dell'Arte*, a comedy of Goldoni, a Gallic farce.

Summoned in a spirit of fantasy by a flamboyant actor beating a drum, the brightly-attired characters appear from a side alley and march like puppets on to the cart-stage. Streets, taverns, gardens are simply suggested; there is a romance between an adventurer and a fine lady to the soft music of a poet's guitar—much comedy about mistaken identity and income tax. At the end all resume their stiff attitudes and are gone up the alley as the actor collects the coins he suggests will not be unwelcome.

Stockholm's open-air theater takes varied forms. An enterprising showman has chosen *Clown for a Day*, a French vaudeville piece of 1838, and set it on a circular stage in the open courtyard of the Hallwylska Palatset. Decorative stones and statues surround the public; a palace balcony has a part in the action; once again the roof is the sky. Laughter is the order of the night at the



Reportagebild

*A performance of "Clown for a Day" by the Arena Theater in Stockholm*

Arenateatern, for the piece is "about traveling clowns, a theater manager who supplements his income by pulling out teeth, a love affair between a tight-rope walker and a student of good family, mysterious letters, stolen trunks, unknown fathers and other improbable adventures".

At the watery edge of that deer-park famed for the folk-museum and pleasures of Skansen, close to the statue of Jenny Lind, a beribboned barge arrives on an anniversary evening in warm July. It brings the 18th-century troubador Bellman, white-wigged and gay-coated, to entertain a goodly assemblage

of Stockholmers. They watch his life story on a popular stage in Tivoli's fairground; see him treading a minuet with a crinolined princess or serenading his beloved Ulla on the lute.

This is a highly-spiced Bellman perhaps, but a tribute to his personality. More authentic are the cadences heard higher up on Skansen's hill; they spring from the first Queen Elizabeth's "nest of singing-birds". Leave *Hamlet* and Elsinore to the Danes; here Shakespeare is represented by *En Midsommarnattsdröm*. In a land where midsummer nights linger eternally, his "Dream" is at its best, enhanced by a landscaped

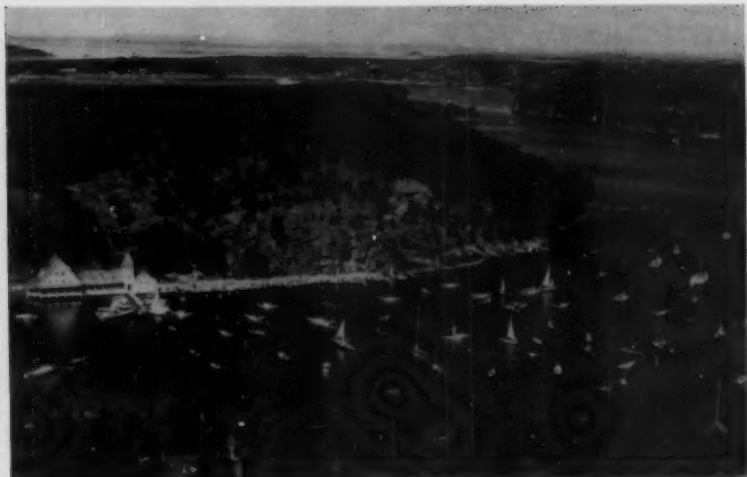
arena of flower-spangled cliffs and rocks hung with fantastic cobwebs.

The performance has taken on a Northern flavor. Mendelssohn undulates with harps and weird sounds from off stage, for these elves have an Ibsen-touch of the troll. Even the immortal bard acquires a new enchantment, as

the translated version lets the vociferous audience enjoy the fun more than his countrymen struggling with old-style English. So courtiers and lovers and fairy-folk outdo themselves in a merry romp. Touched by the spell of the Swedish outdoors, another classic has taken wings.

*Dudley Glass is a British author and composer who has made frequent visits to Scandinavian and other European Festivals and has recorded his impressions in leading journals. He has had a number of musical plays produced in England and is at present completing a travel book and also an opera set in Norway.*





*A view of Hankø, with the bath house on the left.*

## HANKØ: YACHTSMEN'S ELDORADO

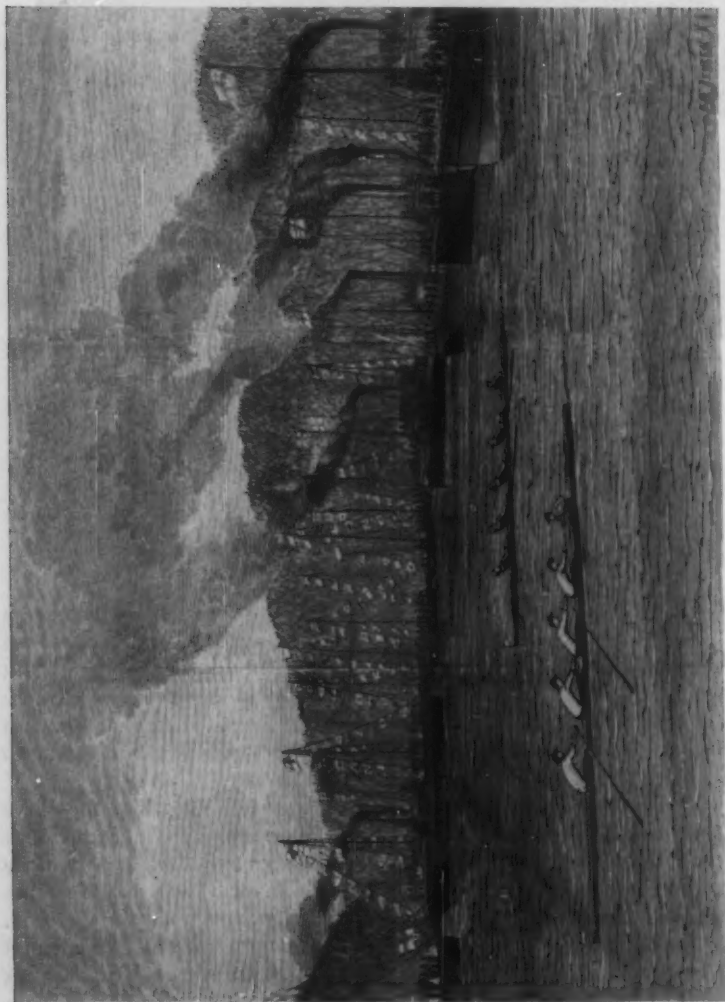
By CHRISTIAN B. APENES

WHOEVER wants to be introduced to Norway in the best possible manner ought to arrive by ship and sail from the Skagerak into the Oslo Fjord. This fjord is perhaps not exactly what one imagines a fjord to be, that is, wild and inhospitable, with precipitous mountains and cascading waterfalls. Around the Oslo Fjord the country is more open and friendly; the fjord cuts its way into the broad valleys of East Norway, whose hills and mountains are mostly tree-covered and rounded off and do not attempt to reach the very heavens.

Near the entrance to the fjord, indeed, there is an archipelago of bare and stormlashed islands, affording only windswept vegetation in cracks and

crevices. The islets which lie outermost and, during autumn nights, face the raging ocean are not inhabitable. But on summer days, when playful wavelets caress their rocks, it is here we find one of the most beautiful vacation lands in Norway.

From the rocks that ring the shore one can jump into the salt ocean, which here runs deep and cool, and then the July sun can provide a beautiful tan for those who stretch out in the sand. Or you can putter around in a small motor boat, with owners of thousands of other craft. And at the same time you can try your luck with a hook and line from your boat, or you can use a fishing pole and make a real sport of it from one of the islets. But above all,



*A scene from the first rowing regatta to take place in Norway, held at Hanko in 1877. (From "Ny Illustreret Tidende").*

here you can run up a white sail, as has been done since saga times, and sweep through the narrow channels and out on the open ocean in a small sailboat.

This is where the Norwegians continue their glorious traditions of old when Norwegian sailing ships could be seen on all the seven seas. Here nowadays hundreds of Norwegians keep their pleasure craft and here's where big races are arranged every summer. And here visitors and vacationers come every year from near and far to go sailing and swimming.

Right inside the stormlashed islets we find the first tree-clad island. This is Hankø, the Norwegian yachtsmen's Eldorado. On this island Norwegian sailors and yachtsmen descended about 75 years ago, and they have remained here ever since.

Their favorite race course extends among all the islets out toward the open ocean. In the channel behind the islands which separates it from the mainland, they have a splendid harbor, hardly touched by the wind and the tide. On this island there is a big hotel, surrounded by summer villas in the fragrant fir and pine forest; some of them may be found up on the slopes where ocean breezes enter freely into one's parlor.

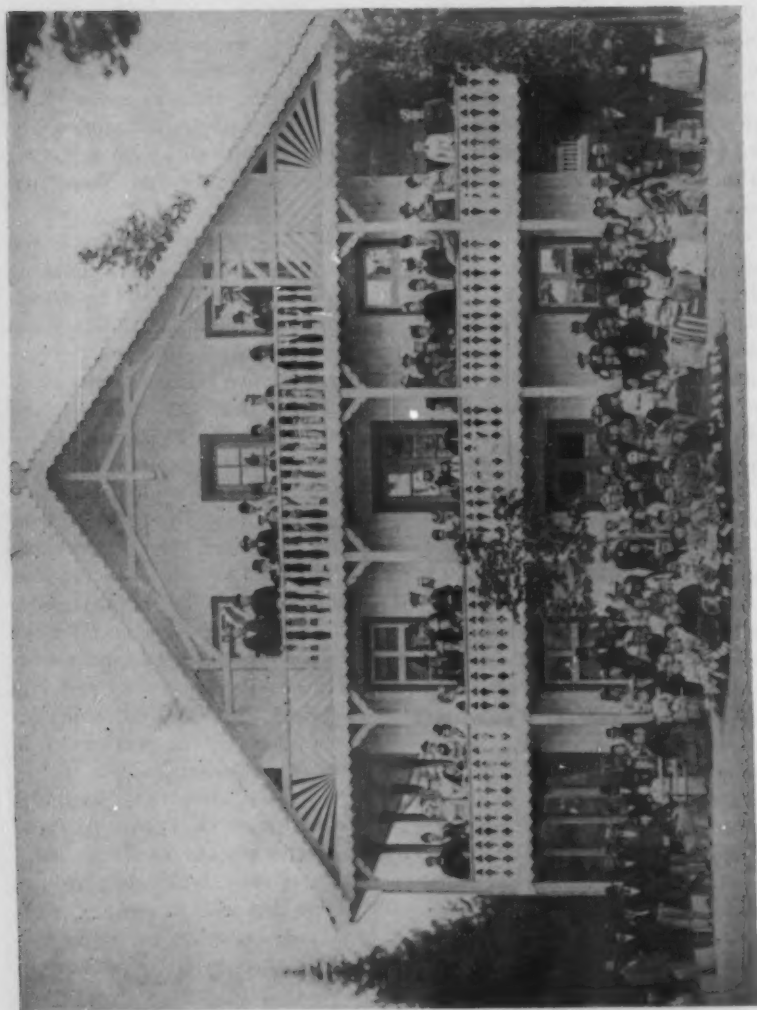
Vacationers have indeed taken complete control of the island. There are hardly any "natives" left at all. Once upon a time there was an old inn out here, and one may still see an ancient building where we are told there was no lack of drinking and fighting when the Dutch trading ships anchored in the bay during the autumn gales. The specter of an old Dutch skipper, still toddling in the underbrush during stormy nights, is the only one left from this

period in Hankø's history. But at the highest point of the island, from where one can look unimpeded over sea and land, an old viking lies underneath a pile of stones. He is safely buried under the huge stones and it is hardly possible for him to haunt any one. He appears merely in the imagination of the vacationers. He was called King Hanke by those romantic people of the nineteenth century who went exploring in their own country and found new and strange things.

Hankø was one of these places which they discovered first—even before taking vacations in the country and by the sea became commonplace. At Hankø it was possible to put up bathhouses the way they wanted them in the 'seventies and 'eighties, with mudbaths, massage, and pine needles, with a physician who issued strict rules but at the same time permitted a moderate amount of amusement and recreation in the social hall. Only a very few of the patients were advised to take a dip in the sea instead of using the mudbaths; they were sent down to the bath houses over by the channel. Here, reflecting the great modesty of the times, there were separate sections where the ladies and the gentlemen could bathe. The sections were separated by a wooden fence, in which, however, it was said, that peepholes were to be found. On both sides there were latticework tanks; the ladies mostly stayed in their tank while in the water. Here they were hanging in ropes while kicking their legs to the accompaniment of the shrieks of their companions.

This is the way Hankø got its start, at a time when people with respect for themselves and their weaknesses gladly spent a few weeks in the summer to





*A Sunday afternoon at Hanko in the 1880's, with children and grownups dressed in their very best.*

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*A flock of tame deer are among the inhabitants of Hankø.*

nurse the latter in such pleasant surroundings. The old villas in "classic" Swiss style are partly hidden in the woods. Many of them have cosmopolitan names indeed: Summerhome, Gerick, Falkenstein, etc., and make one think he is back in the 'seventies. Walking along the "Fern Way" one can fairly see a lady from those times carrying a parasol which was to protect her complexion against the few rays that got through the thick fir and pine forest.

But soon people hit upon the idea that it was possible to go to a bathing resort without pretending to suffer from rheumatism or stomach catarrh and without being obliged to rub one's body with the sulphurous smelling mud for which the baths were so well known. The sailors and yachtsmen were the first to find this out. As early as 1882

a regatta was held at Hankø, and used for the first time the now "classic" course which starts at Garnholmen.

It was in a race held here that Gunnar Knudsen, later to become Prime Minister of Norway, won a first prize, and at the party at the conclusion of the race took the initiative in founding a Norwegian Society for Yachting. The Society was fully organized the following year and was named Kongelig Norsk Seilforening (The Royal Norwegian Yacht Club).

Hankø has ever since the early 'twenties been the center of yachting in Norway—the scene of the big national regattas and the international races for the sought-after Coupe de France, the Gold Cup, and the Seawanhaka Cup. It is a meeting-place for yachtsmen the world over, with the Norwegian Royal Family as its center. During many



*The headquarters of Hankø Yacht Club,  
designed by Wilhelm Svendsen.*

years the erect figure of the late King Haakon was to be seen in the judges' stand to watch his son, the present King, at the rudder of one of the racing craft. In recent years Crown Prince Harald and his sister Princess Astrid have steered their boats across the starting line by the Hankø skerries.

When the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary two years ago, a big and variegated program was put on in the Oslo Fjord and the Skagerak, but always with Hankø as the center of activity. Hankø served as both the starting place and the finish for the big ocean race called "The Skaw Race", traversing Norwegian as well as Swedish and Danish coastal waters. Hankø was also the finish for the Dover to Hankø Race across the North Sea, which was arranged by The Royal Ocean Racing

Club. There was also a race from Oslo to Hankø, covering the entire length of the Oslo Fjord; and the following day the Anniversary Regatta took place here.

The foreign guests were received in the new building erected by the Hankø Yacht Club. It was designed by the architect Wilhelm Svendsen, who is also taking part in the restoration of the Cathedral of Trondheim. At Hankø he has utilized the style of the old buildings found in the coves along the coasts: the building looks almost exactly like one of the old wharves still used by fishermen to store their nets and other gear. It is almost a part of the terrain, and it is not until one comes close up that one notices to what purposes the house has been built.

"What a wealth of glorious memories we yachtsmen have from Hankø—summer and sun, salt water and seaspray—



*The view from "Blokstjerg", the summer residence of the King.*



*The islet of Garnholmen at Hankø*

sailboats and girls—everything that we connect with vacationing and fun." The Norwegian-American yachtsman Magnus Konow has written this. And many will join in and agree—all those who have taken part in the regattas for the coveted trophies—raced with a sweeping sou'wester from the Skagerak and have made a daring tack with the very mast at stake.

All those will also agree who have been onboard when the fleet of white boats have ridden at anchor in the safest and most beautiful sailing ship harbor in the world. No one will ever forget a night in the Hankø channel when the dusk is hardly pierced by the tiny lights through the hatches, and all the happy sounds of summer are heard in the cockpits, with a lonely accordion in the background. The oars from small and swift yawls going to visit friends and competitors do not even cause a

ripple in the surface of the water. They do not spoil the black reflections of the jagged silhouette of Hankø's forests or of the residence of the King, which rises above the treetops near the summit of the hill.

But in the large drawing-room of the hotel everyone is having a gay time. Conversation may be heard in all the languages of Europe. And if language is a barrier, people dance together to the tunes of the orchestra.

In this very room our grandparents danced Viennese waltzes. Their doctor had told them how healthful and full of turpentine the air was out here and therefore had prescribed a stay at the baths. We moderns do not need that kind of justification. Without even thinking about it, and without having to consult a doctor, we just accept the joys of Hankø and go back there summer after sunfilled summer.

*Christian B. Apenes is a District Judge in the city of Sarpsborg, which is located not very far from Hankø.*

# SCANDINAVIAN FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS: RECENT TRENDS AND EMERGING PROSPECTS

*A Report on the Second Columbia University Conference on Scandinavia*

By JOHN H. WUORINEN

ON APRIL 2, 1960 over threescore Americans and Scandinavians met in New York for the Second Columbia University Conference on Scandinavia. (The first was held on March 30, 1957.) Like its predecessor three years ago, it was co-operatively sponsored by the University and The American - Scandinavian Foundation. The subject of the one-day Conference was "Scandinavia in a Divided World: Foreign Policy Problems—Alternatives—Prospects."

The second Conference was a direct result of the first, that is to say, it was "the sense of the meeting" in 1957 that a second Conference should be held "in the near future." While a good deal of thought was given to the possibility of convening a conference in 1959, various circumstances combined to postpone it till the spring of this year. By that time, incidentally, certain aspects of the foreign policy situation of the nations of the North had developed to a point where analysis by the student of public affairs had become seemingly somewhat more rewarding than would have been the case a year or two ago.

Except for the subject, the 1960 Conference was in many ways a replica of its predecessor. (In 1957, the subject was "Scandinavian Unity.") The general assembly was again welcomed on

behalf of the University by Vice-President John Allen Krout, and opened by the present writer. The Conference thereupon divided into three Round Tables, each meeting in a forenoon session. The program called for afternoon sessions as well, but a last-minute change led to a single afternoon discussion session, which gave the participants an opportunity to meet in a body to consider aspects of the general subjects that the individual Round Tables could at best cover only in part.

The day's agenda included a luncheon; a social hour in the afternoon for which cocktails were provided by one of the participants in the Conference, Mr. C. Harry Kuniholm of Gardner, Massachusetts; and a dinner at which a summary of the Conference was presented and Director Peter Strong of The American-Scandinavian Foundation delivered an address.

The topic of the first Round Table was "Finland's Foreign Policy Problems Since 1954"; that of the second "Sweden's Policy of Alliance-Free Neutrality"; and that of the third, "NATO's Northern Flank—Norway and Denmark." It should be noted here that although Iceland is obviously an important member of NATO's "northern flank," difficulties in program-making led to regrettably brief mention of the Icelandic aspect of NATO.

Professor Göran Ohlin pointed out that Sweden's "alliance-free" neutrality is based upon the conviction that Sweden's membership in NATO would in no important way improve the chances of the Swedes to stay out of war, or make world peace more secure. On the contrary, such membership would make Sweden's involvement in a world conflict quite unavoidable without adding to but rather reducing her ability to ward off attack or to survive it. The guiding principle has therefore been to steer clear of alliance affiliations. That is basically not different from the aversion to "entangling alliances" which has been fundamental in U.S. foreign policy throughout most of its history. Sweden's commitment to neutrality is not, of course, unique. The other three nations of the North that fell victim in 1939-1940 to Russian and German aggression were equally wedded to neutrality and a policy of peace. And none of them was—or is—ideologically neutral; excepting the Communist parties, the sympathies of their citizens are overwhelmingly with the Western democracies.

The determination to stay uncommitted and the conviction that peaceful coexistence requires continuing and intelligent search for honorable accommodation and morally acceptable common ground in today's divided world, have led Sweden to pursue a policy that has set her apart from the NATO group since 1949. This policy has demonstrably been in Sweden's best interests, as the record to date shows. Its very success appears to support the Swedes' contention that neutralism, entirely compatible with devotion to the principles of the free world, might well turn out to be more conducive to inter-

national peace and tranquillity than the continuing hardening of international alignments of which evidence is accumulating on every hand.

In the section devoted to Finland, the writer pointed out that Finland's position since 1945 has been unique. Despite defeat in the two-phase 1939-40 and 1941-44 war with the U.S.S.R., Finland has remained free and sovereign. Two general circumstances account for the nation's independence. The first is the important fact that while the Finns were forced to sue for peace in 1944, complete military defeat, unconditional surrender and occupation by Soviet forces did not mark the end of the war. (The reason why unconditional surrender was not demanded and occupation not attempted are matters of pure conjecture). The second is the foreign policy that the Finnish governments have scrupulously followed since World War II, especially in relation to the U.S.S.R. It is not new, for Finland's policy toward the Soviet Union before the war was part and parcel of the general policy of strict neutrality and friendship toward all nations. Some of the externals of this policy have, to be sure, assumed new aspects since the last war. Contrary to frequent Soviet claims, Finnish governments before the war were dominated by an effort to avoid arousing suspicion or giving offense in Moscow. This resolve has been even more conspicuous since 1945. Strict neutrality and no alliances or commitments implying involvement in Big Power conflicts have been emphatically and tirelessly underscored over the past fifteen years. Incidentally, while the Finns have scrupulously denied themselves the luxury of all unfriendly comment or criticism of



Moscow, domestic Communists have continued to be exposed to scrutiny and discussion that label them quite accurately enough as enemies of democracy and the liberties of Western man.

Two specific aspects of the situation as of 1960 deserve mention. In 1952, Finland completed the onerous reparations payments and thereby brought to an end eight years of most exacting economic servitude. In 1956, the Porkkala enclave, which had been "leased" in 1944 to the U.S.S.R. for a naval base, was returned to Finland. A galling and dangerous territorial servitude was thus eliminated. The 1948 treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with the Soviets had likewise turned out to be, contrary to some predictions, no threat to the nation's independence.

The pact prevents Finnish military agreements with the West but does not limit other relations, and Finland's neutrality in the East-West alignment has remained intact. The nation's Western orientation has been increasingly sharply defined over the years. Membership in the Nordic Council, official since 1956, is merely one of the conspicuous illustrations of the closer contacts with the other Northern democracies.

In his interesting discussion of NATO, Mr. H. Peter Krosby called attention to the fact that the most striking aspect of Denmark's and Norway's post-1945 foreign policy is the complete break with pre-World War II tradition. Together with their Swedish and Finnish neighbors they were die-hard neutralists before 1939. Their experiences during the last war, however, have changed the situation. Various Soviet and Communist moves in 1945-

1948 led to a recognition of the U.S.S.R. as a potential aggressor and to the conclusion that an alliance with the Western Powers would provide the safest anchorage available in a divided Europe.

Before this conclusion was accepted, consideration was given to a Scandinavian defensive alliance. The project fell through because Sweden would consider an alliance only if it remained independent of big power combinations while Norway would accept the contemplated alliance only if it were associated with a Western bloc. On March 3, 1949, the Norwegian legislature decided, with the eleven Communists dissenting, to accept an invitation to join preparatory discussions for an Atlantic Pact and to refuse the Soviet offer for a non-aggression treaty. In Denmark the same views came to prevail and the Danish legislature approved the text of the NATO treaty by an overwhelming majority on February 29. Both countries and Iceland, whose Parliament had followed suit on March 30, signed the treaty that created NATO on April 4, 1949.

NATO membership has not meant abandonment of the purposes and reservations that were clearly defined when membership was accepted. The purpose is to safeguard national security, in cooperation with the West, without provoking the Soviet bloc. The reservation is not to permit, in peacetime, foreign bases or troops on Norwegian or Danish soil. Norway's resolve to adhere to this reservation was strikingly illustrated by the fact that Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen signed, during his visit to the U.S.S.R. in November, 1955, a communiqué reaffirming Norway's determination not to per-



mit foreign bases or troops in time of peace. Danish Premier H. C. Hansen refused to sign a similar statement during his visit to Moscow in March, 1956.

While Norway's and Denmark's NATO membership "with reservations" has been disturbing to the leading NATO powers, it has remained a main feature of the policy of the two nations. By following it, it is argued, Norwegian-Soviet relations have avoided strains that would cause deterioration of East-West relations; Finland has been saved from difficulties which increasing Soviet pressure—allegedly unavoidable if Norway's policy were different—would in all likelihood have meant; and the security interests of Sweden have probably also benefited by it.

Still another aspect of these countries' NATO affiliation has come to stand out. Denmark and Norway are not altogether at ease in an alliance that includes Germany, and both were at one time opposed to the inclusion of West Germany in NATO. They also opposed the inclusion of Greece and Turkey because of Balkan defense considerations that these countries clearly implied. And Denmark and Norway persist in interpreting their position and obligations within the alliance according to the conditions they defined in 1949, undisturbed by occasional charges by spokesmen of the major members of the coalition that in doing so they blunt the edge of the alliance and encourage neutralist tendencies.

Director Peter Strong's address at the dinner meeting was entitled "Private Initiative in the International Field." It discussed the all-important subject (with special reference to Foundations) of the increasingly deep and con-

tinuing involvement of the American citizen in the field of international affairs. It was pointed out that Niels Poulson's interest and endeavors, resulting in the establishment of The American-Scandinavian Foundation fifty years ago was part and parcel of that growing concern over problems of international peace and cooperation that brought into being such organizations as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. An interesting historical detail was the fact reported by Mr. Strong that Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, then President of Columbia, was the first President of The American-Scandinavian Society (in 1908) which later became part of The American-Scandinavian Foundation. The Foundation was "officially recognized" by the State of New York on March 16, 1911.

By 1921, the pattern of this unique Foundation had been set. The domain of its endeavors has broadened, especially since the last war. Exchange of students, trainees, and lecturers, covering a wide range of artistic, scientific, etc., fields, has been a large part of its program. Its *Review* is now in its 48th year, and the Foundation's imprint is now on more than eighty books—a proud publishing record indeed. No less enviable is the contribution of the Foundation in the field of international concord and understanding which continues daily to yield evidence of enviable success in the pursuit of the objectives first envisioned by Niels Poulson and now skillfully and—if the writer may insert a personal appraisal—energetically pursued by the present leadership of the Foundation.

Limitations of space prevent further discussion of the Conference and its significance. One of its aspects, how-

ever, requires mention. At the 1957 Conference, Mr. Raymond Dennett persuasively expressed the idea that the time has come to establish a Scandinavian Institute or Area Study Program, devoted to a continuing study of the nations of the North. This idea appears to have been shared by the second Conference no less unqualifiedly than by the first, although no formal dis-

cussion of it was attempted. Columbia University would seem to be a natural home for such an Institute or Study Program, not the least because its staff already has several members competent to pursue scholarly interest in the Scandinavian field. And while this idea germinates, it is to be hoped that a third Conference will be arranged in the not too distant future.

*Dr. John H. Wuorinen is Professor of History at Columbia University and served as Chairman of the Department of History from 1949 to 1958. During World War II he was Chief of the Scandinavian-Baltic Section in the Office of Strategic Services. He presided as Director at both Columbia University Conferences on Scandinavia.*



## THE STORIES OF NONNI

By MEKKIN S. PERKINS

THE AUTHOR of Iceland most widely read is not the novelist Gunnar Gunnarsson nor the Nobel-prize-winner Halldór Kiljan Laxness. He is a writer of travel books and children's stories, Jón Sveinsson. He was, and is, better known as Nonni, the name he chose for the young hero of his tales, who is actually himself as a boy.

Jón Sveinsson enjoyed an unusual career. Born on November 16, 1857, in then strictly Protestant Iceland, he became a Jesuit priest and missionary. Although a poor, fatherless boy at the age of twelve, he became a teacher and lecturer, linguist and world traveler, as well as the most popular author of children's books his country ever produced. He has sometimes been called the Hans Christian Andersen of Iceland. The comparison is, however, not apt. Jón Sveinsson was not a teller of fanciful fairy tales. His stories were charming simple anecdotes based on his own experiences.

From childhood Jón Sveinsson had a yearning to become a writer. Yet he was not to realize that ambition until he attained the mature age of fifty-five.

He was fortunate in having been born in a home where the reading of good books was encouraged. His father held the post of secretary to the magistrate (Amtmann) of his birthplace, Möðruvellir, in northern Iceland. His mother, an intelligent woman, well read, though unschooled, as were most people in that day, early taught him to read, using the Bible as text. It was from her that he inherited the gift of story-telling. She encouraged him to read the books avail-

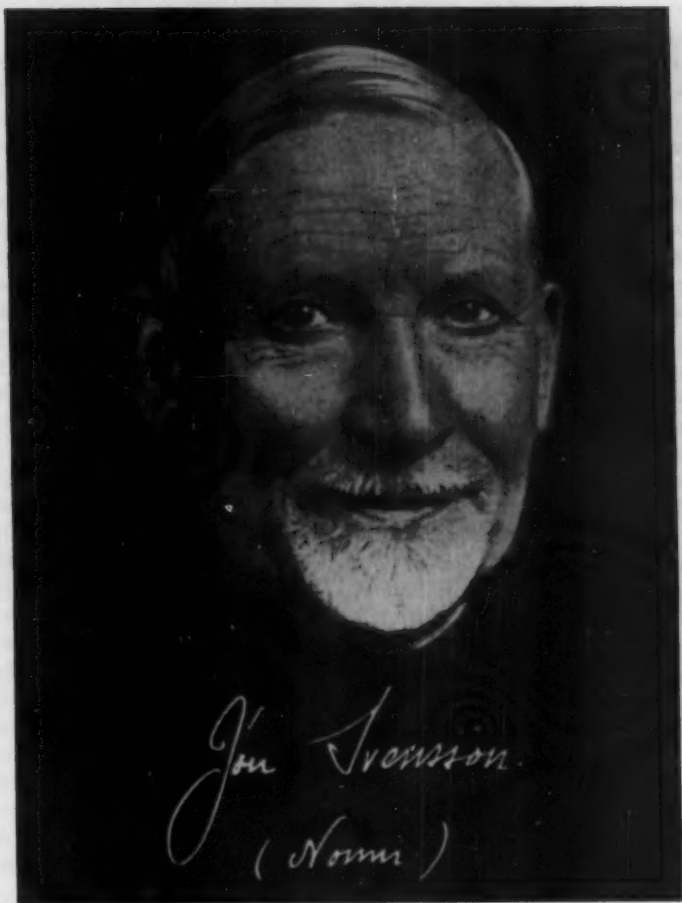
able at home: the Icelandic sagas, Homer and *The Arabian Nights* in translation, and others. He soon exhausted these and borrowed from the neighbors.

When Jón was ten years old, his father lost his post as secretary to the magistrate at Möðruvellir, and the family moved to Akureyri on the Eyjafjörður, the country's second largest city and most important seaport on the north coast. Their home, a small frame house by the seashore, is still standing today.

The boy learned to love the majestic scenery surrounding his new home. Here he first saw ships from abroad: French fishing smacks and warships, Norwegian freighters, Danish trading ships. He met the members of the crews and played with the ships' boys. All this stirred his imagination and prepared him for his future career.

When Jón was twelve years old his father died. Left with a houseful of children, his mother had no choice but to break up her home and give the children for adoption to friends and relatives.

Fortunately for Jón, at this time there happened to be in Iceland Catholic missionaries sent to provide for the spiritual welfare of the French fishermen who for decades had been fishing in Icelandic waters. Believing that relations between the French fishermen and the people of Iceland would be improved if a few bright young Icelanders could be educated in France and then return to their native land, the missionaries persuaded a rich French nobleman to educate two boys with this in



Jón "Nonni" Sveinsson

*(The author spelled his name "Svensson" in later life.)*

view. An Icelandic friend of the missionaries at once accepted the offer on behalf of his own son and recommended the son of the pastor of one of the State churches as the other, a boy who, by the way, later became Bishop of Iceland. When the pastor's wife refused to send her son to a foreign land, the offer was made to Jón's mother. To

her it was a godsend. Giving the brilliant lad the education he deserved would have been impossible in Iceland in her circumstances.

And so, at the age of twelve, Jón Sveinsson found himself on board a small Danish sailing vessel bound for Copenhagen. In his pocket he carried a scrap of paper with precepts for liv-

ing written by his mother; in his heart was a determination to depend upon the Lord for guidance. The adventures of this voyage which, because the vessel was caught in the arctic ice, took five instead of the usual one week, are graphically described in one of his popular books.

Upon arrival in Denmark, the boy learned that he could not proceed to France immediately because the Franco-Prussian War had broken out. The Catholic missionaries in Copenhagen meanwhile took him in and saw to it that he was introduced to Icelanders residing in the city. His stay stretched to eighteen months. He made good use of his time, learning Danish and beginning the study of French. These languages later became more natural to him than his native Icelandic.

When he finally arrived in France, he enrolled in the famous Jesuit secondary school at Amiens. This was a large institution with an enrollment of 500 students, a select teaching staff and fine buildings. Jón had not been there long when he persuaded the authorities to send for his favorite brother Ármann, the Manni of his stories. The brothers graduated together, but, to Jón's great sorrow, Ármann died shortly after registering at the University.

The monks were greatly pleased with Jón's scholarship and personality. A brilliant student, the boy was tall and handsome, a fine athlete, a good shot. After graduating from the school at Amiens, he studied at universities in France, Belgium, and Holland. Then he received an appointment as teacher of German and athletics at a Catholic secondary school at Ordrup, near Copenhagen. Here he taught for twenty-five years, with an interval of four years for study at a theological seminary in

England, where he joined the Jesuit Order.

Jón constantly kept in mind his ambition: to become a writer. He had hoped to devote his spare moments at Ordrup to writing. But there were few of these. His duties at the school were arduous. Besides, he was required to make frequent trips by bicycle, on church missions, to various parts of Denmark, in all kinds of weather. These were often exhausting both physically as well as emotionally. They left him no time to devote to writing except in the evening after a long hard day's work. He had to be content with publishing a few short pieces on religious subjects and travel articles.

All the while, however, he was preparing for the time when he could make writing his career. As his native land was to be his chief topic, he gathered vast amounts of material about Iceland. He made the acquaintance of many prominent Icelanders living in Denmark and attended the meetings of Icelandic students at the University of Denmark. There were many of these at that time, as Iceland then had no institution of higher learning of its own. He collected clippings on Icelandic subjects as well as Icelandic books and papers. In 1894, twenty-four years after he left his native land, the Jesuit Order made possible a visit during which he traveled on horseback to historic and scenic points of interest and to the home of his childhood in northern Iceland. Upon returning from this journey, Father Svensson (he had Danicized his name) published an account of his travels in Danish.

The opportunity to embark on a literary career came at long last in 1912 when he developed arthritis and the doctors advised a change of climate and

occupation. After a year's rest in Holland and Germany, he decided to take up residence in a warmer climate in southern Europe. Here at last he was able to devote himself to writing.

In 1913, *Nonni*, the first and best of his famous "Nonna Bækur", "Nonni's Books", came out. The hero, Nonni, is, as we noted above, the author himself as a boy. Here he tells the story of his decision to accept the offer of the French nobleman, the parting with his beloved mother, the dramatic voyage to Denmark, and his first impressions of that country. *Nonni* was followed by *Nonni and Manni*, tales of childhood adventures with his favorite brother Ármann on the waters of the Eyjafjörður and in the surrounding countryside. *A Skipalóni* ("At Skipalón") includes the thrilling account of a Christmas visit to a neighboring farm, "Skipalón", and an encounter with polar bears which had landed with the Arctic ice. *Sólskins dagar* ("Days of Sunshine") contains the tragic story of the young shepherd Julli who, to rescue his flock in a blizzard, buried himself along with them in the snowdrifts and was found dead after the snow melted. *Nonni Erzählt* and *Borgin við Sundið* recount his experiences in Copenhagen as a boy. And there were others.

His stories are all told with a charming simplicity of style that holds the attention and makes an adventure of even common everyday events. They were translated into some thirty languages and soon became popular with children and young people throughout the world.

Strangely enough, most of his books were not originally written in his native tongue, or in Danish or French, languages he knew equally well, if not better, than Icelandic. They were writ-

ten in German. He had several reasons for choosing to write in that language. Danish and Icelandic were the languages of small, non-Catholic countries, whereas German was the language of a powerful nation with a large Catholic population. Besides, he had many friends among literary people in Germany.

Although millions of copies of his books were sold—at least half a million in Germany alone and nearly five million elsewhere—he did not reap any financial rewards. These must have been great when his works were at the peak of their popularity. The Jesuit Order, to which he belonged, managed their publication and translation and collected the royalties, but saw to it that his every need was supplied.

When his books had become popular, Jón Sveinsson began to receive requests to lecture, especially before schools and institutions of higher learning throughout many of the countries of southern and western Europe. It is estimated that in all he delivered at least 5,000 lectures, usually on Iceland, its history and culture, and his life there as a boy. He became the best publicist his country has ever had.

In 1930 he accepted an invitation to visit his native land once more, this time as the honored guest of the Government during the millennial celebration of the world's oldest parliament, the Alþing. On this occasion his country conferred upon him the Order of the Falcon, its highest honor, and placed at his disposal an automobile and guide so that he could travel wherever he wished. This visit became the subject of one of his travel books.

It was not until 1936, when he was 79 years old, that another of his childhood dreams came true. He had the



opportunity to take a trip around the world. As a schoolboy in Amiens he had read with great interest Jules Verne's book *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Learning that the author was a resident of the city, he made bold to call and ask about the possibility of taking such a trip. He was advised to postpone it at least until he had finished his education, advice which he perforce had to accept. The years passed. Not only did he finish his education, but he spent a long active life as teacher and lecturer. Only then did the hoped-for opportunity come. The Jesuit Order offered him the chance to travel around the world by way of America and Japan, provided he would write a book about the latter country.

This proved to be a triumphant journey, especially his visit to Japan. He was already known in that country, for some of his books had been translated into Japanese. Schools and institutions of learning, as well as private groups, clamored to see and hear him. Children and grown-ups alike flocked to his lectures as he traveled from city to city. He received many honors and much acclaim. When he finally sailed from Kobe, where he had spoken before large audiences, crowds of children lined the docks to see him off. A bystander describes as "unforgettable" the sight of literally thousands of children waving good-bye as the ship sailed away.

Jón Sveinsson did not live to finish the books he planned to write about this journey. *Nonni in America* and *Nonni in Japan* were completed from his notes and published posthumously.

Not long after his return to Europe, World War II broke out. It found him in a monastery in Holland. The war years were years of hardship and sorrow. He was virtually a prisoner of the Nazis who did not look upon Catholic authors with favor. His strength gradually failed. On October 16, 1944, at the age of nearly 87, he died in Cologne, and is buried there.

Iceland has honored his memory in many ways. Editions of his works are constantly coming out and are eagerly read by grown-ups as well as children. His books are everywhere regarded as classics on life in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

The little frame house by the seashore at Akureyri where he lived has been made into a museum as a memorial to him. Known as the "Nonni House" it was given by the owner to the ladies of the Zonta Club of the town. They have repaired it at great expense, furnished it as it was when the author lived there and equipped it with photographs, copies of his stories, and other mementoes of his life. But the largest and most complete collection of his papers, diaries, manuscripts, editions of his books in many languages and other possessions has been assembled by Haraldur Hannesson, a member of the Catholic Church in Reykjavík. In 1957 the centenary of Sveinsson's birth was observed throughout Iceland with newspaper spreads and appropriate ceremonies. Haraldur Hannesson was in charge of the celebration, and for the occasion loaned his collection for public display at the University of Iceland.

*Mekkin S. Perkins, a resident of Des Moines, Washington, has contributed many articles on Icelandic topics to the "Review". She has also translated a great number of short stories by Icelandic authors.*





*The Hanseatic Wharf in Bergen as it appears today.*

## EXCAVATING BERGEN'S HANSEATIC WHARF

By ASBJØRN E. HERTEIG

**N**O NORWEGIAN CITY has a more vivid history and background than Bergen. Her fantastic complex of medieval and modern buildings and ages of town planning, and her scenic setting, offer unusual charm. Nearly surrounded by high mountains, which she audaciously tries to conquer by pushing her population ever higher on to the steep slopes, Bergen presents an unforgettable picture. Abundant vegetation and rich coloring, cleaned and freshened by frequent showers, render this town a thing of beauty whether seen from the sea or from the

peaks that encircle it.

In the midst of the city, however, there is an open wound inflicted by the great fire of July 1955, which reduced to ashes one half of the group of old and famous buildings of the Hanseatic Wharf (*Tyskebryggen*). That loss was all the more serious because of the fact that just in this burned section the original style of building from the early medieval period was better preserved than in any other part of the town. It was the core of what was still left of the old Wharf and, as such, a reflection of the architecture prevalent in twelfth-



*An excavated section of the Hanseatic Wharf.*

*The well-preserved front of the Wharf, built after the fire of 1170, is shown in the center with a later section from 1198 on the left. Both are lying on huge masses of refuse from earlier stages of construction at the Wharf.*

and thirteenth-century Bergen, when the city was the capital of Norway, the seat of the clergy, and the economic center of the country.

This part of the Wharf was founded in an age when Norwegian commerce had widespread contact abroad inherited from the travels of the vikings; as a staple- and dwelling-place of the Hanseatic merchants in Bergen the Wharf kept its international character far into modern times. Therefore, the fire of 1955 was not only a national catastrophe but was in many ways of international concern. It did, however, clear

the way for the recent archeological excavations during which huge masses of construction and artifacts were unearthed.

According to the Norse sagas the original town was founded just within this area by King Olav Kyrre at about 1070 A.D. But nobody knows the character of the earliest settlement—whether there was a gradual evolution from a tiny sea port to a real town or whether the sagas are to be understood in such a way that the king founded a completely new town on the uninhabited and not easily cultivated shores which



*A Rhenish jug from about 1100.*

sloped down to the bay. We have fairly good reason to believe that the present excavation also will bring forth more concise knowledge regarding the founding and earliest history of the town.

It is not surprising to find cultural layers many feet thick when excavating townsites in southern Europe or in the Orient, but the layers we have found in Bergen of about 35 feet in depth were a great surprise. The sagas as well as other written sources have many references to fires in Bergen, often accurately dated, and the Wharf being the oldest part of the town was laid waste by most of them, that is at least eight times. Of the vast archeological material which has hitherto been found nothing so far has been thoroughly examined, but we may nevertheless out-

line the most important results achieved. On the basis of a series of foundations, layers of ashes and refuse, remains of buildings and streets from one town lying immediately upon the other, we have constructed a cultural and chronological sequence that is of the greatest importance for the interpretation of the material excavated. As yet only about one half of the originally planned excavation has been carried out.

The peculiar style of building which was so characteristic of the Wharf, with long parallel rows of houses arranged in units of two with an intermediate passage in each, can now be traced back to 1198, and we can thus give a much earlier date for the town plan than was hitherto known.



*The ground floor of a house built after the fire of 1332. The floor of the adjacent wooden passage may be seen on the right.*

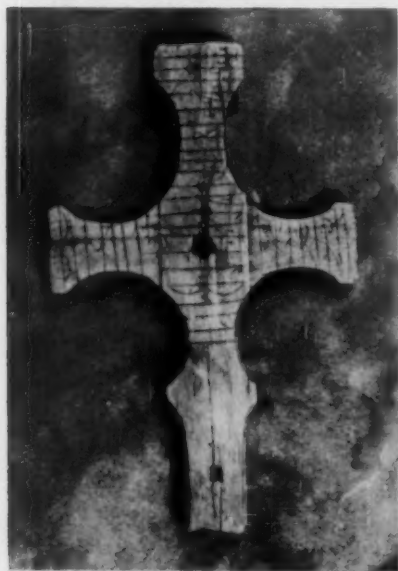
In front of this row of houses the quays used to jut out a little into the sea. After each fire the quays, and also the buildings, expanded further out into the harbor. Little by little, according to new architectural ideas and the increasing demand for new ground to build on, the settlement advanced as much as 300 feet from shore, where the sea had been up to 45 feet in depth. The houses as well as the quays were built on thick layers of refuse, which in course of time had been swept off the pier-heads and had silted up the harbor. This fact made docking by larger ships difficult or even impossible and was another and a very good reason

for extending the Wharf out into the sea.

So far we have succeeded in locating the fronts of the Wharf in all stages of the medieval period back to the rebuilding after the fire in 1170. Due to favorable circumstances we have also succeeded in locating the sea bed corresponding to these different stages. This gives us important data in the development of the town and also, to a certain degree, information as to the types of ships which were common in those days. It is obvious that in 1170, or about 1200 A.D., with only three or four feet of water in front of the piers, no deep-drawing ships of the medieval

type can have been used, while on the other hand ships of the shallower viking type may still have been employed. In later periods the depths in front of the piers increased considerably, indicating development in ship-building.

Special mention must be made of the as yet earliest excavated stratum, that of 1170, because it records a much more advanced stage than was to be expected from the available written sources, according to which the foundation of the town goes back to about 1070. The waterfront of 1170, however, reaches about 100 feet out into the former sea and is built upon cultural layers of about twelve feet in thickness. This indicates a considerably earlier date than the official one for the founding of the city by King Olav Kyrre. Inter-



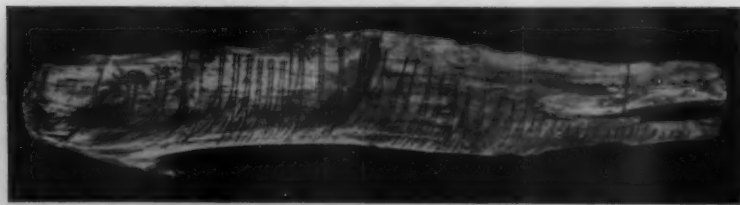
*A cross with a runic inscription, from the thirteenth century.*



*A crowned sculpture, representing either Christ or St. Olav.*

esting as this may be, we have so far no possibility of excavating these earliest strata, because they are situated outside the burned area, but there are actually no technical obstacles preventing us from doing this if only the necessary amount of money could be provided.

But even without this earliest inhabited area being excavated, scholars have greatly changed all their previous assumptions about the origin of the town and the preceding topographical situa-



*A piece of carved wood, 25 centimeters long, and probably from the middle of the thirteenth century, found at the Hansa Wharf. The pictures show a fleet of viking ships, adorned with dragon heads.*

tion. In the light of our findings a more thorough-going interpretation of the many vague passages in our written sources has been made possible and this may in turn contribute to our knowledge of Norway's early history.

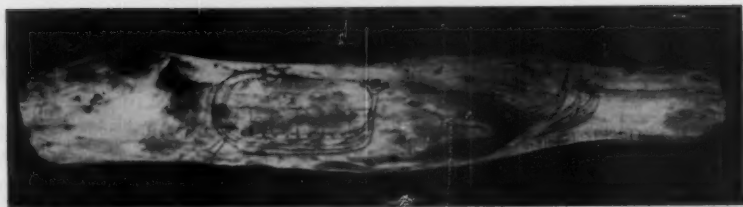
A detailed study of the architectural remains reveals a series of houses built with different techniques. One of these houses has yielded so much material that we have succeeded in reconstructing it completely, with the exact dimensions of both stories and the second-floor gallery. The type is recognized to be the same as that which may still be seen in our folk museums and in the country. These houses are usually thought to have developed on the farms and not in the towns, but now we have very good reasons to believe that the opposite has been the case; that this peculiar type of house, with its narrow ground floor, was first to be found within the early medieval towns of Europe.

From the very beginning the Wharf housed the stores and dwellings of the wholesalers and other tradesmen. Here wares from different countries were stored, and in their wake foreign customs and manners followed. These goods have mostly perished for ever or

are untraceable, but the humid state of the soil has provided extraordinarily good conditions for preserving most kinds of organic material, especially objects made of wood, bone, and leather. Among the large quantities of leather-work found there is a quite large collection of decorated sheaths of swords and knives. Their style and ornamentation are related to those of viking times, which featured strange-looking animals framed in ovals or medallions.

Works of art are chiefly represented by carved figures of wood or bone. This category may also include some of the artistically decorated work of the comb-makers as well as neatly carved chessmen. The relatively large number of the latter indicates how people used their leisure. Up to the present time we have found more than forty different runic inscriptions. Although often written in cryptorunes, most of the inscriptions are easily interpreted, and, besides being of linguistic importance, they give a fairly good insight into religious and social habits. Their contents are usually a mixture of humble prayers and magic; there are also mere love runes, for inciting or for enhancing love. Wood, bone, in one single in-





*The reverse of the piece of wood found at the Hansa Wharf. The picture represents a viking ship, with dragon heads on stem and stern, a side rudder, and oar-holes. In front of the ship may be seen the stems of three other ships and below them a runic inscription: "Here sail the brave (or daring?) at sea."*

stance even leather, have been favorite media for cutting them.

One of the most outstanding single objects is an oak beam from the latter part of the thirteenth century. It belongs to a ship of a type which up to recent times has been unknown in Scandinavia. The excavations of the old harbor of Kalmar in Sweden, however, brought to light at least four ships of this type, characterized by a system of transverse beams whose ends project through the planking, which again fits into notches in the beam-heads. According to the beam found in Bergen the length of the ship to which it belonged may be estimated at 85-90 feet and the width at 25 feet. But it is rather difficult to decide whether this beam has been part of a Norwegian or a foreign ship.

Some German and Norwegian historians have maintained that the success of the Hanseatic merchants was chiefly due to their superior ships, of which the Scandinavians had no equivalents. This contention has never been proved. On the contrary, written docu-

ments, e.g., the English customs rolls, give evidence of the fact that Norwegian seamen on Norwegian ships in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries brought to England cargoes larger than even the biggest ships of the viking type could have carried. If we therefore should succeed in identifying the type of ship which had such transverse beams, much new light would be thrown on disputed political and commercial problems of the medieval period.

Besides this single item, hundreds of interesting objects deserve to be mentioned, among which are two small lathes from the middle of the thirteenth century. These will bring about a revision of our view of medieval craftsmanship, as it has been commonly held that lathes were unknown before the Renaissance. A further enumeration of objects is unnecessary, but we will only mention the fact that most of the material consists of all kinds of domestic utensils, personal belongings, amulets and the like, but very few tools.

Refuse from the whole town, and

not only from the quay where the merchants lived, was tipped into the harbor. In some places we can even find large heaps of imported pottery completely unused. This is most certainly breakage thrown off the ships before discharging.

The excavated material will give a richer and more adequate expression of phases of life and culture in Bergen

in general than one might have expected considering the mercantile background of the Wharf. Since the cultural pattern of the more important ports of northern Europe must have been similar, the present excavations in Bergen will have far-reaching consequences. And in the light of the great mass of remains already unearthed further investigations will be most promising.

*Asbjørn E. Herteig is a Norwegian archeologist attached to the Hanseatic Museum in Bergen.*



*A marlin spike made of bone, from about 1200.*

## REBILD NATIONAL PARK

By JENS HVASS

*Reprinted from "Danish Foreign Office Journal"*

EVERY CHILD in Denmark has heard of Rebild Hills, and numbers of Danish emigrants have gathered there to celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July.

The hills are beautifully situated in north-east Jutland, partly enclosed by the northern section of Rold Forest, the largest continuous stretch of forest in Denmark.

Though they are called hills, they are in fact the western extremity of a plateau which extends well to the east. The visitor who approaches them from the east, from Skørping, does not feel that he is climbing high hills.

He proceeds by the steadily ascending road to Rebild village, and it is only when he has passed Rebildhus that the ground falls sharply, with fine ravines over to the west.

The landscape is broken up by the gullies of glacial rivers which carried water, ice, and rubble into the rocky valley and beyond to the now drained Gravlev Lake, through which flows the Lindenberg River, carrying the waters of the springs of Himmerland into the Limfjord.

From the plateau to the west of Rebildhus one gets a fine view of the hills. On the right is Sønderkol, 102 meters above sea level, a point from which, to the south, one can look out over the seemingly endless expanse of Rold Forest. To the north one can enjoy the varied Jutland scenery in the direction of Gravlev and Støvring, and towards Ålborg beyond.

Unfortunately, the landscape is disfigured by an appalling number of tracks. This is almost inevitable in view of the ceaseless streams of visitors crossing the heather in the summer.

But it is distressing to see new paths appear on the fine carpet of heather year after year, though one must be glad that the minds of so many people are presumably enriched by this beautiful scenery.

Heather is a woody plant that one would take to be sturdy. In fact it is as sensitive as mimosa. One day's visitors to Rebild can, in a few hours, kill thousands of little heather plants by thoughtless trespassing off the paths, most of which are laid with oak logs.

From our plateau we can enjoy the view of the little cottage on our right. This is Topkaren's House, a poor landless laborer's cottage built on the meager heath many years ago. Faithfully preserved, it stands integrated into the landscape as a relic of a frugal and now vanished time. Topkaren, who served coffee to visitors for a generation, has long been dead, but the King and Queen stop their car outside her cottage when they pay their occasional visits on "Rebild Day".

### *The Cimbrian Stone*

Turning off to the left we climb a hill which is crowned by a huge boulder. This is the Cimbrian Stone, the second-largest specimen of rhombporphyry in Denmark—brought here



Danish Information Office

### *The hills of Rebild*

from Norway by the glaciers. Anders Bundgaard, the artist of the Gefion fountain in Copenhagen, turning the natural contours of the boulder to fine account, has carved on it the figure of the Cimbrian bull. Chiseled below are the words: "The Cimbrians set out from these parts in cxx B.C." For this district, called Himmerland, was the home of the Cimbrian tribes which, in the second century before Christ, migrated in large numbers into Central Europe, as far as Italy.

Descending the steps we take one of the paths which lead to the hollow called Gryden ("The Pot"), which is the focal point of the Rebild celebrations.

### *The Fourth of July*

Here, on the Fourth of July every

year, a rostrum is erected from where speeches, singing, and music are carried across the hills, which, on this one day of the year is like a gaily colored carpet formed by anything up to 30,000 Danes and Danish-Americans in bright summer clothes. A distant observer of the scene may be reminded of a gigantic living ant-hill.

But Rebild Hills—the scenery—is best enjoyed on a quiet summer's morning, when one can experience the solitude in the beautiful surroundings; above all if one leaves the beaten track for the wooded hills, where the beech, stunted and knotted, shares the ground with juniper and aspen, while yet leaving space for fine patches of heather.

A closer inspection of the heather reveals a profusion of other plants which grow with it. Among these are

*Danish Information Office*

*A part of the crowd attending a Fourth of July celebration  
at Rebild*

dense clumps of bilberry with its typical grass-green branched stems, resembling a very green miniature forest. Here also are cowberries with their leathery leaves and handsome whitish-pink flowers, which usually go unobserved. In damper spots grows the bluish-pink bell-heather, and if one looks

carefully one can find the romantic rosemary. The bearberry and the almost shrub-like bog whortleberry stand out in a few heather-clad ravines. But come, too, in August, when the heather is in bloom and the brown hillsides are clothed as if by magic with the most beautiful purple drapery.

*A Gift to the Danish Nation*

Rebild Hills were presented to the Danish nation, in a deed of gift accepted by King Christian X on August 4, 1912, by a group of Danish-Americans headed by Dr. Max Henius. Henius took the initiative and found the site which became the setting for the annual celebration for Danish emigrants visiting the old country.

The deed of gift contained a clause which has since caused difficulties. This says that "the park shall remain in a natural state forever."

It is a fine idea, but, alas! unrealistic; for Nature cannot be chained. It is impossible to perpetuate a phase of Nature seen in a particular year. And Rebild Hills will not be graced "forever" with the carpet of heather which Danish-American poets sing of and our expatriates in America long for—at least not without human intervention.

*The Advancing Forest*

Rebild Hills were not originally heath, but forest which was denuded by man and his livestock and for a time was displaced or pushed back by the invasive heather. Fires have also raged. For example, fifty years ago a bonfire lit by some boys at the foot of the hills spread as far as Topkaren's House. The same sort of thing happened about fifty years before that. And healthy heather springs up in the track of fire. It follows that anyone wishing to renew the heather on the now partly wooded hills would no doubt find matches an effective means of doing so. But woe to any person who tried!

Rebild Hills grow greener for every year that goes. The aspen springs up in the heather all round and it is only at great trouble and expense that the Government is able to restrict it on the hills chiefly visited by the public. From time to time a few hundred boy scouts are turned loose on it. This gives temporary relief, but an aspen can send up fresh shoots at intervals up to 60 feet away. Young beeches are spreading at the same time. Jays and wood pigeons drop beech-nuts in the heather, and slowly but surely the saplings appear and soon overgrow the heather and develop into a young forest.

The heather has another enemy, though one that is easier to control. This is the conifer, which diligently sows itself from the wooded hills west of the valley. Fir and spruce would now form numerous scattered clumps over the whole area, but for the officially authorized campaign against all conifers in the hills—except juniper.

Rebild Hills will always remain an experience, a splendid jewel in the Danish scene.

There are few places in Denmark with a view like that which meets the eye from Sønderkol and the other points, and the visitor has continually before him the fine unspoiled heather-clad hills, fringed by a beech wood which passes imperceptibly through low-growing bushes into a close-set forest, interspersed with Norwegian-like patches of aspen, juniper, and scattered oaks.

Rebild Hills call constantly on Danish emigrants and others—from America and elsewhere.

*Jens Hvass is the Chief Government Forester of Denmark.*



# THE WHALE ISLANDS

## A SHORT STORY

By PER WÄSTBERG

**B**ENDING DOWN so much that my head almost touched the ground, I could see the ants wobbling between the blades of grass, cutting their way as if penetrating a dense jungle of lianas. I could almost see small, quaint-looking spiders digging into the thin net of moss closest to the earth. I was lying in the hammock, and the sun and the stillness around me made it easy to see clearly.

Then I heard Mother crossing the lawn. She came over to stroke my neck in her particular, somewhat childish manner and said that I had gotten very warm and that I could get a sun-stroke, lying there head down so that all the blood would rush to my brain. She asked if I would not go down to the jetty and see if any mail had arrived with the 9 o'clock steamer.

Going down to the jetty I met a boy I had never seen before. He was shorter than I and completely pale. He had not gotten sunburnt yet. He kept his hands in his pockets while kicking an apple before him in the gravel.

"Hello," he said.

I stopped.

"Hello! Why do you kick that apple?"

"Don't know," he said, "'cause it's fun. Mother gives me an apple every day. She says it's healthy after you've had the scarlet fever and while you're still weak. No other fruits are ripe yet."

I looked at him. He looked funny in some way. It was probably true that he was frail. His legs were very thin and gnat-bitten. Suddenly I figured it

out, that he and I perhaps could see a great deal of each other now during the summer.

All the years before I had always played with Frank, but it seemed he did not want to any longer. He was a little older than I, and one day he told me that now he played with Set. Set lived in the house next to his. Set was my enemy. He had once cut the sails of the clipper ship the gardener had made for me. That was long ago, and now I did not care about such things any more. Still, he was my enemy and we never saluted each other when we met. And at the beginning of the vacations I had said to myself that Frank was not a specially good pal of mine, and that he and Set might just as well stick together since they got along so fine.

But I noticed that Mother did not like seeing me walk around alone all day long. And she often said that I ought to find a playmate as there were so many youngsters on the island. I told her then that no one was actually my age—no one who had the same interests. The girls were only ridiculous. I liked to sail my boats made of reeds down by the raft, where they did the washing. I had done that every summer and had never tired of it. Sitting down there I could hear the halyards of Linder's sailboat thudding against the mast, and further out in the bay the spar-buoy was swinging on the swells made by the skerry-steamers. Now and then huge tankers would

pass between the Sorb Islets, rounding the buoy off Thistle Island. Some of them were on their way to Panama.

The boy had kicked the apple into several small pieces and was now shoving them into the ditch at the roadside. I was wondering if I should not ask him what his name was. It is always difficult to speak to those you have never seen before.

"Klas," he said.

"I'm Olle," I said.

Then he told me that his mother rented the little cottage on Ström's lot. They were to stay there for the summer.

"Your mother?" I asked a little astonished.

"Yes," he said.

I could not make up my mind to ask any more questions. We met several people with bundles before we reached the jetty, and as we did the passenger steamer had already backed and was just running under the lee of the promontory to clear the shoals out in the middle of the channel. There was a letter for Mother. It was from Papa. He always sent a couple of letters every week, as we did not have any telephone; but we would have next summer, as soon as they had put the automatic lines in.

On the way home we stopped at Klas's gate.

"I have to go in now and eat," he said. "We can meet later."

After breakfast I went out into the garden to lie down in the hammock. Then I suddenly remembered that Klas did not know where I lived, so I had better go to his place. When I arrived, he and his mother were sitting under the parasol in the yard. I bowed to her.

"Klas must be careful," she said to

me. "He has just had scarlet fever and is still weak."

She looked at me, as if I were dangerous for Klas. She was rather young and pretty, but somehow she seemed to be unhappy, and all the time she was looking at Klas with scared, blue eyes.

"If you keep on talking a lot of rubbish like that, Olle and I will go to the Whale Islands," Klas said.

"Oh," his mother exclaimed, turning to me. "That you won't do, will you?"

"What?" I wondered. "I don't understand."

Afterwards we strolled in the forest that covered part of the island. The weather had been dry for more than a week, and the fern leaves were a little withered at the edges. A green woodpecker was hammering away quite close by. We threw stones at it, as it escaped to safety over the blackthorn copse. Then we found a path that crossed the island. People seemed to have forgotten it, as it was overgrown with crakeberry shrubs.

"What are the Whale Islands?" I asked.

"Oh, you don't know?" Klas said. "They are not very far from here. Last summer, when I lived opposite the strait, towards Milk Island, I could spot them in the telescope. They lie in the East Scissors Bay. I wanted to go there, but they never let me."

He took a note-book out of the hind pocket of his short trousers and read: "The Whale Islands, one large and one small, situated in the East Scissors Bay, of considerable height and partly covered with forests. Approachable only with great difficulty. The steep shores characterized by several deep crevices, that may serve as excellent hiding-places. Next summer I will go to the

Whale Islands to camp."

"I always carry a note-book with me so I don't forget things of this kind," he declared. "Of course, the Whale Islands I would remember anyway."

"Yes," I said.

I tried to imagine what the Whale Islands would look like. I managed pretty well. Precipices with deep indentations, dense alder copses or aspen groves, caves—the hiding-places of smugglers. The very top of the rock worn off, resembling a platform. From there you would have a fine view of all the skerries.

"Next summer I'll go there," Klas said. "Now I mustn't, as I've had the scarlet fever."

From then on Klas and I spent much of our time together. Usually he came over to my place, although I knew his mother did not like it very much. We used to sit down by the raft, sailing our reed boats or loitering about without doing anything at all, only talking about the Whale Islands. We made plans how to get there next summer, and Klas made a list of what we would have to bring along: a hatchet, a whistle, a flashlight, hooks and lines . . . a list I sat dreaming about.

One day I went to Våxholm by boat to buy a blue note-book. In it I wrote: "Next summer Klas and I will go to the Whale Islands . . ."

At the jetty one morning I met Frank and Set. Set did not say a word. He just kept his hands in his pockets, balancing on the edge of the jetty. Frank seemed to be very proud in Set's company. He looked at me with contempt, saying:

"How can you get any fun out of fooling around with Klas? He's crazy! Haven't you noticed the queer words he uses?"

"You don't know anything about it," I said. "He and I are going to the Whale Islands."

"Really," Frank said. "You haven't the faintest idea where they are."

"Oh forget it," Set said. "Here comes the steamer."

I tried to avoid them after that, and when down at the jetty I saw less and less of them. During those days the wind blew from the south, and the gardener was happy not to have to moor his outboarder to the old buoy tugging at its long cable-chain out in the bay. While approaching from the opposite side of the island we could see the smoke from the skerry-steamers long before they themselves came within sight. The whortleberries began to become mellow and the jasmine blossomed. Their white flowers impregnated the meadow with their scent.

When I was over at Klas's place, his mother often repeated that he had to be careful and not run about excessively and play too much, because he was still too weak. I often ate the apple his mother gave him every day. He did not want to eat it, as he knew his mother gave it to him because he was so weak. Apparently he did not tan easily. He was just as pale as at the beginning of the summer. I noticed that he was different from other boys I knew. Perhaps that was the reason I liked him.

Every time I was alone I dreamed about the Whale Islands. I used to look at the sailboats that were beating to windward in the bay, knowing that once they had passed the Myskhölm promontory, the whole of the Scissors Bay would spread out before them. Then perhaps one could see the Whale Islands—as high, dented contours far away on the horizon. But wait . . . next

summer! . . . I took the note-book out of my pocket, turned over the leaves and found the page where I had written in block letters: "Next summer Klas and I will go to the Whale Islands."

Through the glass doors facing the bay I watched some sea-gulls angrily circling around a fisherman who was rowing close to their nests on the stones among the reeds. The stern of a huge cargo steamer just then disappeared behind the islets along the Furusund fairway, gray veils of smoke still lingering in the air.

One day, when I went over to see Klas, he was lying on the lawn, reading a book called *The Mysterious People*. It dealt with the Mayan people in Yucatan. He told me to wait till he had finished the chapter he was reading. From Klas's cottage one had a good view of the narrow channel where the old, decayed landingstage was. A white Neptune cruiser had just run aground, its mast swaying jerkily.

"Look! It's stranded!" I shouted.

"Yes," Klas said. "Never mind. I've only one page left."

After finishing the chapter very calmly, he stood up and put the book aside. By then they had almost gotten the cruiser off the shoal, and onboard they were already stowing the boat-hook and the skulls away. We started strolling down the road.

"The land of the dead towns," he said dreamily. "Temples buried under moss and sinuous lianas."

I started kicking a few stones into the ditch. Between the trees you could get a glimpse of the bay. Some boys were bathing down there.

"Do you know anything about the Mayan people?" Klas asked.

"No, I don't," I said.

Klas walked along quietly for a while.

"Of course we don't know very much," he said. "Their history is shrouded in darkness."

"Yes," I said.

"Mexico is a wonderful country," he continued. "Yucatan is a peninsula in the southern part."

We passed a garden with some pink beehives. The bigaroon were ripe inside the fence.

"Everything has sunk into oblivion," he said. "The darkness of the primeval forest guards the hidden secrets of the towns of Yucatan."

That made a deep impression on me—all those things Klas told me, but when we had walked along silently for quite a while I started to talk about the Whale Islands, because they seemed so much more important right then. Apparently Klas did not hear me.

"When I've grown up, I'll go to Mexico," he declared. "I've made a note of it in my book."

He patted the pocket in his trousers. And by and by it dawned upon me that he did not care so much about the Whale Islands any more. They were too close, and the hidden things in their caves were nothing in comparison with the millennial mysteries of dead civilizations. I did not say any more about it. I only thought it would be long before we could get to Mexico, but that next summer, for sure, we would go to the Whale Islands.

Later Klas said that there was nothing particularly interesting in the Whale Islands. They were so small, and most likely people had already been there. It would be better to make up our minds to go to Mexico, as there was much that could be done in that country. We went home and sat talking

about it down by the raft.

It was Saturday. Sailboats and white skerry-steamers were passing by all the time. A warm breeze filled the sails, and people were bathing or sitting on the jetty, fishing. At first it felt rather queer to leave the Whale Islands out and go to Mexico instead, but that feeling soon faded away.

When Klas had left, I took my blue note-book and crossed out what I had written before about the Whale Islands. Instead I wrote in big block letters: "When I've grown up, Klas and I are going to ship onboard a steamer bound for Mexico."

A few days later Father arrived from the city. He said he would like to go with us to the Whale Islands some time, but I answered that then he would have to go alone since Klas and I did not care about going there any longer. We had decided to go to Mexico instead. Papa was swinging his briefcase back and forth, he had no hat on, so the wind swept his brown hair down his forehead, and all the time he was busy pushing it back. I really wished to talk to Father about something that interested him, because I saw pretty well that he was thinking about rather more important things than our plans.

However, I found it hard to leave Klas out of my thoughts. I often met him on the road. He never brought an apple along any more, as the berries had ripened. He walked rather swayingly and used to trample down the flowers at the roadside. He was almost as pale as earlier in the summer. We hardly spoke of anything but Mexico, and I filled my note-book with the

beautiful words Klas used. They might become useful later, in town or elsewhere.

"Invaluable treasures of beauty and knowledge had been consigned to the wilderness and destruction," Klas said.

One day Klas did not turn up, and when I went over to see him I did not find anybody at home. Somebody told me he had caught a fever and had been taken to Våxholm. Just then he was lying in a hospital in Stockholm. He had pneumonia. His mother was in town, too. Some days passed. It was raining very hard. Then they told me Klas had died. His mother never returned to their cottage. Some pieces of furniture were left there. No one ever came to fetch them, and Ström, who had rented the cottage to them, sold them at auction the following summer.

As I went out on the front lawn, not a breath of air was stirring, and the sun had disappeared behind dense clouds that threw pale-blue shadows across the ground. I saw a sailboat that did not move out there in the bay. The sail moved now and then. The helmsman eased the main sheet. It looked as if a thunderstorm was about to break out at any moment. You could already hear some thunder in the direction of the Beaver Islets. But the storm did not break until well into the night.

"When I've grown up, Klas and I will ship onboard a steamer bound for Mexico." I took out my blue note-book and was going to cross out the words "Klas and I," but queerly enough I did not do it. I did not quite like the idea of going to Mexico alone, so I left it as it was for the time being.

*Per Wästberg is a Swedish author who has a number of novels and short stories to his credit. His last novel, entitled "Arvtagaren", was very well received by Swedish critics and readers.*



## SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICA

Three Scandinavian princesses, Astrid of Norway, Margrethe of Denmark, and Margaretha of Sweden, will be guests on Scandinavian Airlines System's first DC-8 Jet Express flight from Copenhagen to Los Angeles, June 3, 1960.

Sons of Norway, the largest fraternal organization of Norwegian immigrants and Americans of Norwegian descent, observed its 65th anniversary on January 16. Started by eighteen young emigrants from Norway in 1895, the mutual benefit order now has nearly 40,000 members, including men, women and children. Scattered over a major part of the North American continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from southern California to Canada and Alaska, there are 250 Sons of Norway Lodges.

California Lutheran College, a new inter-synodical Lutheran college being constructed at Thousand Oaks, Calif., began receiving applications in April from students for admission to its first classes in 1961. Planned as a four-year liberal arts college, California Lutheran will open in September 1961 with a Freshman and a Sophomore class. The Junior year will be added in 1962 and the Senior year in 1963. A full range of pre-professional and liberal arts training towards the Bachelor of Arts degree will be offered.

Jointly operated by the American, Augustana, Evangelical, United Evangelical and United Lutheran church bodies, the school is the first inter-synodically owned Lutheran college in America and the first Lutheran college

to be founded in America in the past fifty years. Dr. Orville Dahl is President of the new college.

Located twenty miles west of Los Angeles in the rapidly growing Conejo Valley, the college is developing a 206-acre ranch site made possible by Richard Pederson, a member of one of the participating bodies, whose family had ranched in the area for over seventy years.

The great Wagnerian tenor Lauritz Melchior, now a resident of California, on March 20 celebrated his seventieth birthday while on a visit to Denmark.

The first Vetlesen Prize was recently awarded Dr. Maurice Ewing, an oceanographer and physicist and the director of the Lamont Geological Observatory at Columbia University. The Vetlesen Prize will be awarded every two years at Columbia University to a citizen of any country for "outstanding achievement in the sciences resulting in a clearer understanding of the earth, its history or its relation to the universe." The award consists of a gold medal, the sum of \$25,000.00 and support for publication of the winner's papers. The Prize was instituted by the G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation, which was set up shortly before his death in 1955 by Georg Unger Vetlesen, the Norwegian-born financier and industrialist.

"Immigration in American History" was the theme for a conference honoring Dean Theodore H. Blegen of the University of Minnesota Graduate School, held in Minneapolis on January 29-30, 1960. Among the many speakers



were Professor Oscar Handlin of Harvard University, Professor Franklin D. Scott of Northwestern University, Professor Henry Steele Commager of Amherst College, and the author and historian Ingrid Semmingsen of Oslo, Norway, whose paper dealt with "Emigration and the Image of America in Europe."

Dr. Carl L. Lokke, historian and branch chief at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., died on April 3 at the age of 62. Born in Minneapolis, Dr. Lokke spent part of his boyhood in Alaska and studied at the Universities of Washington and California. He taught at Columbia University, St. Stephen's College and Smith College before joining the staff of the National Archives. In 1959 Dr. Lokke was elected to the Board of Editors of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

Two plays by August Strindberg, *Miss Julie* and *The Stronger*, were presented over National Telefilm Associates' Channel 13 in New York, on "The Play of the Week," during the week of January 25-31. In *The New York Times* Jack Gould wrote, after the opening, that "the evening is one of the most powerful and absorbing in the history of television drama. Strindberg could well have written with TV in mind. His probing characterization, his searching psychoanalytical emphasis and his uncompromising realism are made all the more stark by their introduction into the home. . . . The passion, bitterness and tragedy of *Miss Julie* are brought to life in most extraordinary performances. . . . *The Stronger*, which is really a monologue by a

wife talking to her husband's mistress, is a pure gem on TV." The tapes will be offered other independent TV stations in the United States. The two plays were presented in translations by Arvid Paulson, noted Swedish-born Strindberg interpreter, who lives in New York.

Dr. Richard Beck, Professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literatures and Chairman of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of North Dakota, was re-elected by acclamation for his fourth term as President of The Icelandic National League of America at its annual convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, late in February. A cultural organization, the League has several chapters in the United States and Canada, as well as many individual members in both countries, as well as in Iceland.

In his capacity as an Exchange Lecturer from the University of North Dakota, Dr. Beck addressed a general convocation at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, on March 9. The subject of his lecture was: "From the Viking Ships to Kon-Tiki."

The Norwegian language weekly *Norröna*, published at Winnipeg, Manitoba, for Norwegians in Canada, recently marked its 50th anniversary with a jubilee edition containing greetings from Premier Einar Gerhardsen and Premier John Diefenbaker.

Captain Finn Ronne, USNR, Norwegian-born leader of three scientific expeditions to Antarctica, became the eighth honorary member of the Ameri-

can Polar Society when he was presented with a scroll at a dinner in Washington, D.C., February 6.

David O. Selznik has awarded one of his six Silver Laurel Medals to Arne Skouen, producer of the Norwegian film epic *Nine Lives*. Ambassador Koht accepted the medal on behalf of Mr. Skouen at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., February 14.

A large tapestry, depicting in bright colors a scene from the early days of the New Sweden colony on the Delaware River, has been given to a special Colonial Room in The American-Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. It was designed by Kurt Jungstedt, noted Stockholm artist, and woven in the French city of Aubusson, famous for its looms. The tapestry shows a Swedish family of settlers in front of their log cabin, in peaceful trading with Indians who have come to sell furs. Corn, potatoes, and tobacco grow around the house, and in the background are a windmill and waving fields of grain. On the river, under full sails, lies the ship *Kalmar Nyckel*, which in 1638 brought the first Swedish colonists to the New World. The Colonial Room is the gift of Herbert Linden of Los Angeles.

Dr. Carl David Anderson of the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, has been awarded the 1960 John Ericsson gold medal by the American Society of Swedish Engineers in New York. This medal was established in 1926 and is awarded every other year to a Swedish citizen or an American citizen of Swedish descent, in recognition of eminent merits in the technological or scientific fields. In 1956 it went to Dr. Elmer W. Engstrom, Senior Executive Vice President of the Radio Corporation of America, in 1952 to Professor C. Richard Soderberg, Dean of the School of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in 1948 to Professor Glenn T. Seaborg of the University of California, who in 1951 became Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. Professor Anderson, at the age of 31, received the 1936 Nobel Prize in physics for his discovery of the positron.

"Norway," an exhibition of contemporary arts and crafts, opened at Georg Jensen Inc., New York City, on April 6. Under the sponsorship of H. E. Paul Koht, Ambassador of Norway, the exhibition represented the work of thirty of Norway's most gifted artisans and included pottery, glass, furniture, jewelry, fabrics, rugs and fashions.

# THE QUARTER'S HISTORY



Winter Issue, pg. 382).

At New Year all Danes seemed to agree that 1959 had been a good year. Prime Minister H. C. Hansen had this to say about the economic situation in a newspaper article: "We achieved a unique progress during the 'fifties and tremendous possibilities open up for the 'sixties." In a speech at the annual dinner of the Newspapermen's Association he pointed out that 1959 was a record breaking year in production, in consumption, and in exports. Unemployment was lower than ever; the treasury was in the black with 800 million kroner.

However, in order to adjust the economy to certain transitory difficulties arising out of Denmark's membership in the new EFTA, the Danish National Bank raised its discount rate January 26, for the second time in less than six months, by .5%. The new rate of 5.5% is the highest in all Europe.

AN AGREEMENT between all five major parties about Denmark's future defense organization was reached in the middle of January. At the tune of a military budget of 1,055,000,000 kroner yearly the new set-up shows the following features: 1) the army will comprise 2 1/3 armored brigades, two Honest John and one Nike missile batteries but with-

out nuclear warheads; 2) the air force will have 112 combat planes in 7 wings including 3 wings of fighter-bombers and 3 wings of all-weather fighters; 3) the navy will have 8 coastal destroyers, 6 submarines, 18 motor torpedoboats, 8 minelayers, and 21 minesweepers; 4) the training period will be reduced from 16 to 12 months.

THE DANISH FREIGHTER *Inge Toft* that had been lying in Port Said for 8 1/2 months because the United Arab Republic authorities refused permission to pass the Suez Canal with its Israeli-owned cargo, was ordered by its owner to unload the cargo and leave Port Said, because maintenance of the ship did not permit further delay. The intransigence of the Arabs has caused much bitterness in Denmark, where public opinion and Government alike saw undue and unlawful interference with the freedom of navigation.

THE ITALIAN PRESIDENT, Giovanni Gronchi, made a one-day visit to Copenhagen in early February on his way to the Soviet Union.

ALL DENMARK suffered a distressing loss when, on February 19 Prime Minister H. C. Hansen died from cancer after seven weeks in the hospital. Among the opposition, as well as in his own Social-Democratic party, he was held in highest esteem as an unusually accomplished politician and a man of fine human qualities; "one of the few real statesmen Denmark has had through several generations," wrote the conservative *Aarhus Stiftstidende*.

His successor is Minister of Finance

*Danish Info. Off.***Viggo Kampmann***The new Prime Minister of Denmark*

Viggo Kampmann who in concurrence with H. C. Hansen's desire was Acting Premier during his sickness. Kampmann is the first Danish Social-Democratic premier who has an academic background and who has never been a manual worker. Also, he is more an expert, a financial wizard at that, than a politician. After finishing his studies of Economics at the University of Copenhagen he became a civil servant. As a tax expert, he became Minister of Finance, for the first time in 1950 at the age of 39, without having ever been a member of the Folketing. The cabinet of which he was a member was short-lived and he became a bank manager for a while. In 1953 he was elected to the Folketing. The same year he became Minister of Finance once more.

In contrast to his eminently practical predecessor, Kampmann is foremost the theoretician, an ardent adherent of a

planned economy. He is known for his sharp and rapid repartee. Once, when asked what he thought of the welfare state, he answered that it was a shame that the welfare state still was a utopia for hundreds of thousands. The sooner it becomes a reality and the better people are faring, the more active and forceful they will be. As an example he mentioned Søren Kierkegaard, who certainly did not suffer from the fact that he lived under secure conditions.

AS OF FEBRUARY 29 all construction work is under strict Government control. Only such works may be initiated for which permits have been issued. The aim of the regulation is to counteract speculation and favor use of scarce building material for works in the interest of increased production and export in consequence of Denmark's new membership in EFTA.

ON MARCH 23 the Danish and the U.S. Governments published plans to install a transportable atomic reactor inside the Greenland ice cap. The reactor is of the type FM-2A and is scheduled to supply the American "Century" base near Thule with power and heat, over a distance of about 200 kilometers. It is hoped that some of the power will eventually also be used for civilian purposes in the remote regions in the northwesternmost corner of Greenland. The about 100 engineers and scientists who will man the "Century" base will carry out numerous scientific experiments on and inside the ice cap. The reactor is being built by ALCO in Dunkirk, N.Y. in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers and is scheduled to be flown disassembled to Greenland where it will start operating in late summer.

A NATIONWIDE STIR was caused when the army chief, Lieutenant-General Viggo Hjalp revealed, in a newspaper article on February 20, that he and other officers had prevented, during World War II, certain arms from reaching various resistance groups whom he suspected of being Communist dominated. Former underground fighters attacked the general furiously in the press maintaining that he had thereby broken a pledge that he, then a captain, had given the Freedom Council and that he had exposed certain sabotage groups who were not Communist-influenced at all to unnecessary high casualties. The debate dominated the Danish press for months; demands were raised by former underground fighters and others that Hjalp resign or be fired as unworthy of trust. The demand was echoed by a major part of the Danish press regardless of party orientation.

A MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING, Poul Hansen (not the Defense Minister of the same name), was arrested in March and pleaded guilty to a series of embezzlements to the extent of nearly 100,000 kroner during a period of 15 years.

POPULAR AND BEAUTIFUL Queen Ingrid, born Princess of Sweden, was 50 on March 27.

AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS between Defense Minister Poul Hansen and Supreme Commander of NATO forces, U.S. General Lauris Norstad, toward the end of March, highlighted an agreement about establishing NATO munition and supply dumps on Danish territory, mainly for the benefit of British and West German forces.



## ICELAND

THE NEW GOVERNMENT of Ólafur Thors, formed in late November by the Independence and Social-Democratic parties, announced its intention to introduce sweeping economic reforms to stabilize the Icelandic economy. By cabinet request the Alþing suspended its session until January, in spite of bitter opposition from the Progressive Party and the People's Alliance. This was done to give the new cabinet an opportunity to prepare its proposals. Since early February the Government has introduced one bill after another, thus getting its economic program off to a vigorous start.

DEVALUATION OF THE KRÓNA was the first and principal measure proposed by the Government and passed by the Alþing. The króna is now valued at 38 to the dollar, while the old rate was 16.32 and the old tourist rate 25.30 to the dollar. This was presented as a recognition of facts, since the real value of the króna had fallen far below the official rate, and the export industries were competitive in world markets only because of heavy subsidies. All such export subsidies have now been discontinued, but they had risen to a figure comparable to the entire national budget. Local subsidies on agricultural and some other commodities will, however, continue.

THE GOVERNMENT maintains that devaluation was inevitable and will rid the country of the cumbersome system of subsidies, which decreased efficiency and allegedly invited corruption. The opposition, however, doubted the need



for such drastic measures and criticized the rise in prices of imported goods. The "escalator" system of wages, whereby wages rose in proportion to rising prices, was abolished, because of its inflationary effect. However, a major increase in social security payments and the virtual abolishment of state income taxes for middle class incomes were presented as measures to counteract the rise in prices due to the devaluation.

FURTHER STEPS were taken in order to secure the economy from slipping once more into the inflationary cycle. Interest rates were raised sharply by 3-4%. Savings accounts now get about 9% and short term loans carry as much as 11% interest. At the same time, the Government imposed, through the Central Bank, strict controls on bank lending. All these measures were intended to encourage savings, cut lending and reduce investment, since liberal credit policies and over-investment are considered two of the main causes of the economic difficulties of the past years. Furthermore, imports are to be liberalized and an overdraft of twenty million dollars has been secured from the European Fund in Paris and the International Monetary Fund in Washington to facilitate this and help the stabilization program.

IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN whether this sweeping program will prove effective and cure the chronic ills of the Icelandic economy: inflation and deficit trade. There has been apprehension amongst the population, and the two opposition parties have been merciless in their criticism. Admittedly much will depend on the labor unions, where the Communists are strong enough to lead the way. Should there be major strikes

leading to general wage rises, the whole program will be in danger.

TYLER THOMPSON, the new United States Ambassador to Iceland, has arrived and taken up his post. Mr. Thompson was born in Elmira, N.Y., in 1907, graduated from Princeton in 1930 and has been thirty years in the foreign service. His last post was that of Counselor and Consul General with Ministerial rank in Ottawa.

THE TWELVE-MILE LIMITS were back in the news during the quarter. The United Nations Conference on Maritime Limits convened in Geneva in mid-March. Before the conference opened the British announced the withdrawal of the trawler fleet and its naval escorts from Icelandic waters. They ended their operations by playing havoc with the nets of Icelandic fishing boats, causing much anger amongst the Icelanders. Iceland sent a strong delegation to Geneva, led by Foreign Minister Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson and including Minister of Justice Bjarni Benediktsson, former Prime Minister Hermann Jónasson, former Minister of Fisheries Lúðvík Jónsson, and several specialists.

THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE has been considerably reduced. Late in February Army units consisting of 1,200 men, approximately a third of the force, were transferred to the United States.

ICELANDIC AIRLINES, Loftleiðir, have purchased two DC-6B airliners from Pan American. These are considerably larger and better equipped planes than those the airline has been using, adding to speed and passenger comfort.





## NORWAY

THE NORWEGIAN Parliament, whose 104th regular session was formally opened by King Olav on October 2, 1959, reconvened on January 7 to continue its work after the holiday recess. On the agenda were several new legislative proposals and committee reports, besides a heavy backlog of unfinished business. Among the most important issues due to be considered were proposals for a new disability insurance act, the state budget for the period from July 1 to the end of 1960, and ratification of Norway's membership in the European Free Trade Association.

Committee recommendations for the proposed disability insurance act, to go into force January 1, 1961, were approved by the 112-member Odelsting division. Only the sole Communist representative voted against. The debate revealed complete accord on objectives and benefit payments, and some disagreement on the financing method. A Center Party proposal to make wage-earners and the state pay all expenses was supported only by the 12 Centerites. A proposal to reduce contributions payable by employers and municipalities, sponsored by the Conservatives, Liberals and Christian Democrats, was defeated by 51 to 45 votes. Estimated to cost about 250 million kroner annually, the new act will provide pensions for some 70,000 physically handicapped persons before they become entitled to receive Old Age Pension benefits at the age of 70.

Parliament received a Government bill on distribution of the DM 60 million (about 102.4 million kroner) com-

pensation which the German Federal Republic has offered to Norwegians who were political prisoners of the Nazi regime during World War II. According to recommendations made by the majority of a Government-appointed committee, payments to political ex-prisoners would range from 195 kroner to 250 kroner a month, with a 50% addition for imprisonment of more than 18 months. Heirs of deceased ex-prisoners would receive a flat sum of 12,000 kroner. All payments would be tax free.

SIR SARVAPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN, Vice President of India and a noted philosopher, on an official visit to Oslo, January 24-26, addressed a UNESCO meeting and also lectured at Oslo University.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of Ole Bornemann Bull's birth was celebrated in Bergen, where the nineteenth-century violin virtuoso was born on February 5, 1810. There were also celebrations in the capital city of Oslo. King Olav, Parliament President Nils Langhelle and many other invited guests attended the commemoration in Ole Bull's native town. The events included a wreath-laying ceremony by his grave and a gala performance at the Bergen Theater, which was founded by him over a century ago.

In the nation's capital, Oslo Philharmonic paid tribute to Ole Bull by playing two of his most popular compositions, "The Dairy-Maid's Sunday" and "Solitude." In Brooklyn, N.Y., the same pieces were performed by the Brooklyn Chamber Music Society and the Norwegian Singing Society at a joint Norwegian Music Festival on February 7.

The Ole Bull anniversary was also marked by Norwegian Broadcasting

Corporation with radio and television programs. Oslo University Library opened an exhibition of original Ole Bull scores, and Gyldendal published a new Norwegian edition of Mortimer Smith's *The Life of Ole Bull*.

After his debut as a concert violinist in 1832, Ole Bull soon became famed throughout Europe and U.S.A. In 1852, he founded an ill-fated colony for Norwegian immigrants in the Black Forest of Pennsylvania. When the venture failed within a few years, he was heartbroken and deep in debt.

Resuming his concert tours, Ole Bull later settled in Cambridge, Mass. On a visit to Norway in 1880, he died at his summer home near Bergen.

KING FREDERIK and Queen Ingrid of Denmark received a rousing welcome on their arrival in Oslo, February 11, for a four-day State visit. Their schedule included a gala dinner at the Royal Palace and a special performance at the National Theater.

THE OLYMPIC FLAME for the VIII Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif., was lit in the Norwegian valley of Morgedal, known as the cradle of skiing. Sky-freighted by Scandinavian Airlines System over the transpolar route it was brought to Los Angeles on February 1. At the Memorial Coliseum, the flame from Norway was used to light the Olympic torch carried to Squaw Valley, a distance of some 600 miles, by a relay of runners and skiers.

The ceremonial lighting of the Olympic flame took place in a cottage once owned by Søndre Norheim, who in the 1860's revolutionized skiing by introducing new techniques and skis with firm bindings. The flame was lit by Olav Bjaaland, an outstanding skier

more than a generation ago and one of Roald Amundsen's three companions on the epic trek to the geographical South Pole in 1911.

Norwegians competing in the Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley won 3 gold and 3 silver medals, as compared with 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze in the 1956 games at Cortina. In the unofficial team standing, Norway ranked sixth, scoring 53 points, as against 41 at Cortina.

Knut Johannesen of Norway ran the 10,000 meter speed skating race at Squaw Valley in 15:46.6 minutes, to smash the world and Olympic records of 16:32.6 and 16:39.9 minutes, respectively. He also placed second in the 5,000 meter race. Roald Aas tied for first place in the 1,500 meter. In skiing, the special 15 kilometer cross-country was won by Håkon Brusveen; Tormod Knutsen was second in Nordic Combined; and the Norwegian team finished second in the 4 x 10 kilometer relay race.

Five other Norwegians helped to boost the unofficial team standing. Torstein Seiersten placed fourth in the 5,000 meter skating event and sixth in the 10,000 meter. Einar Østby was fourth in the special 15 kilometer cross-country and Torbjørn Yggseth had the fifth highest score in special ski jumping. Sixth places were won by Alv Gjestvang, in the 500 meter speed skating, and by Arne Larsen, in the Nordic Combined.

THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT, on March 7, voted 543.3 million kroner for defense in the second half of 1960. At the end of a 2-day debate, Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution, proposed by Conservative Henrik Svensen, calling on the Government to

report on how far the defense program has been implemented. The resolution requested an evaluation of whether appropriations are sufficient to reach defense targets and, also, whether these can be achieved without nuclear weapons.

The question of atomic weapons was raised by Rep. Svensen, chairman of the Military Committee. He was strongly supported by a Liberal, Oddmund Hoel, who emphasized that he spoke only for himself, and several other opposition members. Rep. Svensen, asserting that Norwegian defense could not be effective without atomic weapons, said he would call for a full discussion of the issue next fall. He and other opposition speakers, criticized the Government for failing to prepare and open debate on the question at this time.

Defense Minister Nils Handal said he did not think the half-year budget called for an extensive discussion of the defense policy as a whole. Such a debate would be more pertinent when results of the forthcoming summit meeting were available. Meantime, he thought the proposed defense budget was stronger than the former. The Defense Minister admitted there was a gap between NATO requirements and what Norway had found it possible to do. But that was the case with several other member countries, as well, he said. In Mr. Handal's opinion, Norway could not accept atomic weapons without changing its present policy of barring foreign forces on Norwegian territory in time of peace.

Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen told Parliament that so far the Government had not deemed it necessary or appropriate to invite a broad debate on the question of nuclear weapons,

though he conceded that the problem would have to be tackled, sooner or later. For the duration of the current Parliamentary term, he said, both the Government and the Labor majority in Parliament were obligated by the party program's injunction against permitting atomic weapons on Norwegian soil. But that should not in any way prevent Parliament from discussing the question. The Prime Minister added: "Developments may, of course, force the Labor Party to reconsider its stand on this issue, in which case it might become necessary to call an extraordinary national party convention."

THE NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY, at a meeting in Oslo, March 20, marked the 25th anniversary of virtually unbroken Labor rule in Norway. Since 1935, pure Labor cabinets have included altogether 54 members. The present Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen, has headed the government for over 12 years, all told. His predecessor, the late Johan Nygaardsvold, also Laborite, was Premier for ten years, from 1935 until the end of World War II.

THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT, on March 22, approved the government's ratification of the European Free Trade Association pact, which goes into force July 1, 1960. Only the sole Communist MP voted against. During the 10-hour debate, speakers of all parties voiced deep concern over the problem of working out an agreement with the six-member European Economic Community-EEC.

The debate was opened by Finn Moe, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who said approval of the EFTA convention was the most important decision that has faced Parliament since

Norway joined NATO in 1949. The Laborite MP stressed that failure to arrive at an agreement between EFTA and EEC, as soon as possible, would have a very damaging effect on European cooperation, both economically and politically. Economic division of Europe, he maintained, would inevitably have grave consequences for the NATO collaboration.

The seriousness of the situation was also emphasized by Commerce Minister Arne Skaug, who recalled that the main objective of EFTA is to strive for economic cooperation in Europe. In his opinion, the recent EFTA Ministers Meeting in Vienna had suggested very generous terms for harmonizing tariff reductions of the two blocs. Nevertheless, certain circles within EEC now appear to advocate discriminatory treatment of countries outside the Six. Mr. Skaug, and several other speakers as well, noted that this line apparently is supported by U.S.A., whereas some circles within EEC are strongly against permanent discrimination.

Foreign Minister Halvard Lange observed that if an economic split in Western Europe should extend over a number of years it would unavoidably affect the existing political and defense cooperation. Norway's membership in EFTA, he said, would assure help in protecting the nation's economic interests vis-a-vis the Six. It would also afford an opportunity for endeavoring to prevent a permanent cleavage in Western Europe. "We must do everything in our power to find solutions that will avoid deepening the split," he stressed. The Foreign Minister added: "Norway fully appreciates the historical significance of the cooperation among the Six, but fails to understand why

external customs discrimination is an essential link in developing this cooperation. Establishment of free, non-discriminatory trade relations among all the countries of Western Europe is of decisive importance in the effort to assure continued and speedy economic growth, and thus meet the Communist challenge in this field. It will also determine our ability to make a larger contribution to the cooperation with and the assistance to the economically underdeveloped countries of the world."

During the Parliament debate, Commerce Minister Skaug warned that Norway would face major problems when the Six build up their joint external customs wall. According to latest information, he said, substantial tariff increases have been proposed for goods on the so-called G-list, which covers about half of Norway's exports to the Six. Adoption of these increases, Mr. Skaug declared, would do great damage to Norwegian exports.

"COOPERATION between Sweden and Norway is in most fields better than ever before, and on the larger international level, in Europe and in the United Nations, our representatives keep in close contact," King Olav of Norway said at a gala banquet at the Royal Palace in Oslo on March 16 when he bade the King and Queen of Sweden welcome on a state visit. In his reply, King Gustaf Adolf mentioned the abolishment of passports in the North, the creation of a common labor market and the unique customs cooperation between Norway and Sweden as signs of ever closer relations. The Swedish visitors spent five busy days in the Norwegian capital.



A POLITICAL climate that may be described as relatively stern according to modern Swedish standards was reflected in the opening debate of the 1960 parliamentary session. Elections to the Lower House of the Riksdag are due in September, and after nearly three decades of Social-Democratic rule, or at least leadership, the other democratic parties seem particularly anxious to bring about a change. The area of political controversy, moreover, has been widened as a result of two important Riksdag decisions last year, about mandatory service pensions and a general sales tax, which the opposition parties, although far from united, fought against from the beginning. In the recent debate all three groups, that is, Conservatives, Liberals and Center party, turned against the sales tax, which became effective on January 1. Conservatives and Liberals even promised to abolish the tax at the end of the first year, if they were given the opportunity. The Conservatives as well as the Center party, the discussion proved, remain opposed to the new pension system, while the Liberals would be content with certain modifications.

According to the Liberal leader a new regime and a "thorough airing" would be decidedly wholesome after the long Social-Democratic era. The leader of the Center party, on the other hand, observed that if the elections should result in a virtual stalemate, a national coalition, comprising the four major parties, would be the only possible solution. At present the

opposition commands one-half of the votes in the Lower House, or 115, while the Social-Democrats have 110, and the Communists five.

In the Riksdag debate, spokesmen for the Government observed that it is difficult to work out compromises with an opposition which remains divided. If the opposition parties took over the government, it was added, they would hardly be able to redeem all their promises. One of the cabinet leaders said that the national defense should still be placed above partisan debate.

PRIME MINISTER TAGE ERLANDER and Mrs. Erlander on January 10 returned to Sweden from visits to India, Pakistan and Iran. In India, the Swedish Premier returned an official visit to Sweden by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the summer of 1957. "Sweden's seven and a half million people produce a national income that equals one-half that of India with its 400 million," Nehru said in one of his speeches, adding that despite their high standards of living and great achievements in agriculture and industry Swedes are a modest and unaffected people. In a statement upon his arrival in New Delhi, Mr. Erlander said: "We know that your problems... are different from ours and so much bigger and more complicated, but we also know that your basic approach has many similarities with our own."

THE DISCOUNT RATE of the Bank of Sweden was increased on January 15 from four and a half to five per cent, the level where it was from July 11, 1957, to May 3, 1958. The central bank also tightened control over credit by raising the reserve ratios of the com-



mercial banks. The decision was immediately announced at the Stockholm Stock Exchange, where the atmosphere for some time had been decidedly bullish.

The action, according to the Governor of the Bank of Sweden, was taken in order to slow down the pace of the economic expansion, an objective that was also reflected in the budget for the new fiscal year. At the same time the authorities wanted to pave the way for Government-sponsored financing of new housing and a consolidation of the public debt.

SWEDEN won three gold medals, two silver, and two bronze medals at the Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. Sixten Jernberg won the 30-kilometer cross-country ski event and Klas Lestander the newly introduced biathlon, which is a test of skiing and shooting. The third gold medal was awarded the Swedish team in the ladies' 15-kilometer cross-country relay. By the unofficial scoring system, in which the first six places in each event are counted, the Soviet Union collected a total of 165½ points. Then came Sweden, 71½, the United States, 71, Germany, 70½, Finland 59½ and Norway, 53 points.

PER HALLSTRÖM, author and former permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy which awards the Nobel Prizes in literature, died on February 18 at the age of 94. He was the last of a famous group of Swedish novelists and poets who made their debuts around 1890. Selma Lageröf, Gustaf Fröding, Verner von Heidenstam and Erik Axel Karlfeldt were the leading members of this generation. A graduate of the Stockholm Institute of Technology, Per

Hallström in 1889-90 was employed in a chemical factory in Philadelphia. His first book of poems was published in 1891.

A FEW DAYS after the earthquake at Agadir, Morocco, the Swedish Government dispatched an Air Force plane with some 2,500 pounds of medical supplies. Relief actions were also launched by the Swedish Red Cross, Save-the-Children organization and the State Church, and many contributions were made by individuals. Five Swedes were killed in the earthquake.

SWEDEN's labor peace seems assured for the next two years, as a result of an agreement that the top organizations of labor and management reached on March 18 after three months of complex negotiations. The solution is generally regarded as satisfactory from national economic viewpoints, and as particularly valuable because of the stability it promises. The initial bids of the two groups were far apart, and a negotiated compromise did not seem likely, at least not without some special prompting. "The fact that a settlement of such huge proportions could be achieved without the aid of the public mediation system is something of a sensation," said the Prime Minister, Tage Erlander. "Peace on the labor market is a very great benefit to the economy at the present time, when free trade is being extended in Europe." The top-level agreement for 1959 was reached only after the intervention of a mediation commission appointed by the Government.

Wages, according to the new agreement, will rise by about 3.5 per cent both in 1960 and in 1961. Because of



the recent reduction of the working week from 46 to 45 hours, however, the increase in cash wages during the current year will be only somewhat more than 1%. The employers, on the other hand, will pay the premiums for the new service pensions without making corresponding wage deductions, which this year would have amounted to around 2%; this arrangement applies only to the current two-year term. There is, moreover, reason to expect that wage increases often will exceed those provided for in the agreement, especially if the economic upswing continues. In several recent years the average "wage slide" has amounted to between 3 and 4%.

While the previous two-year settlement, for 1957-58, protected the workers against an unexpected rise in living costs, there is no such compensation clause in the new agreement. This omission is regarded as a "built-in inflation brake" of great importance. For the trade unions, stable living costs will be a vital concern, and they have already requested measures for a closer watch on prices.

THE RIKSDAG on March 30 approved the Government's ratification of the European Free Trade Association pact, the first effect of which will be that Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Great Britain, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal on July 1 cut tariffs in each other's favor by 20%. Only the Communists voted against ratification of the convention. The other parties were in agreement on the vital importance of cooperation between the new Free Trade Area and the six-power Common Market. Sweden, the Minister of Commerce emphasized, is prepared to dis-

cuss all reasonable proposals for a settlement.

A comprehensive resumé by the Foreign Minister, Östen Undén, was prefaced by a condemnation of the policies of "apartheid" and racial discrimination practiced by South Africa. "By the inner logic of events, these have now led to the police aggressions which have shaken all of us," Mr. Undén said. Spokesmen for all the political parties endorsed his statement.

"If by relaxation of tension is meant a solution, or at least the prospect of an early solution, to the great problems which divide the Great Powers and which hold real dangers to peace, then it is not possible to find many grounds for optimism in the developments of the last few years," the Foreign Minister observed. "If, however, we set the goal a little lower and define the concept of détente in a less strict way, it is possible to discern some changes for the better. It is a remarkable and gratifying fact that it is now about a year and a half since the Great Powers, apart from the French experiment in the Sahara, carried out any nuclear tests." There has, moreover, recently been a tendency not to give incidents and differences of opinion greater proportions than they deserve. One might, therefore, think that favorable conditions existed for an agreement on the limitation of armaments. "If the Great Powers wish to avoid war, and for that reason also wish to reduce tension in the world, they should be anxious to slow down the pace of the armament race and reduce the exceedingly high military preparedness. If a military balance can be achieved at a level which, at first, is perhaps only a few per cent under current expenditures,

enormous productive resources would be released for peaceful economic development. So far, however, mutual suspicion has rendered such an agreement impossible. . . . What people sometimes seem to forget is that if the present armament race constitutes a definite danger to world peace, it may be worth taking certain risks in order to avert or at least reduce this threat!"

THE CENTENNIAL of the birth of Anders Zorn was observed on February 18 at the Zorn Museum in the Dalecarlian town of Mora, where the great painter, etcher and sculptor was born and lived for many years. A memorial exhibition was opened by the Swedish Minister of Education. It is the most

comprehensive display of Zorn's works since one shown in Stockholm in 1924, four years after the artist's death. Among the persons attending the ceremony in Mora were two of Zorn's American relatives, Mrs. Marie Zorn-Haller and her daughter Philippa, from Michigan City, Indiana. Mrs. Zorn-Haller's paternal grandfather was a brother of Anders Zorn's father. Anders Zorn visited the United States eight times and painted portraits of many wealthy men and women and of three presidents.

In Moscow, cultural leaders of the Soviet Union gathered to observe the centennial of the Swedish master. Anders Zorn, the main speaker said, was a shining exponent not only of Swedish but of European art.





**The Nordic Council and Co-operation in Scandinavia.** BY FRANTZ WENDT. Translated from the Danish by Aksel A. Anslev. *Munksgaard*. Copenhagen. 1959. 247 pp. Ill. Obtainable from Thyra Fjellanger's Book Store, 6005—8th Avenue, Brooklyn 20, N. Y. Price \$3.25.

The author of this excellent, compact volume has been actively interested in various aspects of Scandinavian cooperation for nearly twenty years. He served as executive director of the Danish section of the Norden Association in 1943-1953, and has held the post of Secretary General of the Danish Delegation to the Nordic Council since its founding in 1953. It is therefore clear that he is eminently fitted to discourse on the Nordic Council and the broader subject, Scandinavian cooperation during the past several decades. The importance of this book is enhanced by the fact that it was written on the initiative of the Nordic Council and was published by it.

Scandinavian cooperation began to emerge as a significant trend about a century ago. It began to assume real importance, however, only after World War I. The reasons were many. Outstanding among them was the emergence of Norway as a fully sovereign state in 1905, and of Finland as an independent republic in 1917-1918. By the closing 1930's, continuing cooperation within a large field of common interest and concern had become an arresting fact. It covered cultural matters, significant aspects of social policy, health services, communications, regulation of travel and the like. While collaboration in foreign affairs was limited to the pursuit of policies designed to contribute to the maintenance of peace and friendly relations with all nations, no defense alignment or alliance had been formed by the time Finland fell victim to Soviet aggression in 1939 or Denmark and Norway were invaded by Hitler's forces in 1940.

Since the end of the last war, pre-1939 cooperation has been expanded along many lines. Mr. Wendt is undoubtedly right in remarking that the establishment of the Nordic Council in 1952 (it began to function in 1953) represents "by far the most important achievement" in the development of Scandinavian cooperation. The Council was originally composed of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Its membership was completed in 1955, when Finland, having previously considered that her foreign policy situation did not yet warrant joining her Northern neighbors in this enterprise, became a full-fledged member.

The Council is a Nordic Parliament with consultative functions. Its membership consists of sixteen representatives of each of the national legislatures (five in the case of Iceland) or sixty-nine parliamentarians in all. Cabinet Ministers attend in varying numbers (for instance, thirteen at the first session of the Council in 1953, and twenty-nine at the 1958 session); the Premiers and Foreign Ministers of the member countries normally head the list. In principle the Council is in continuous operation in that a Presidium is in charge of its labors between the annual sessions of the Council.

The manifold contributions to Nordic cooperation recorded during the past several years can be partly suggested by noting that something like the bases of common citizenship have begun to emerge: a common labor market has existed since 1956; passports have been abolished; and the benefits of social legislation have been extended (except in the case of Iceland) to resident nationals of the other Northern States on the same basis as native citizens. The creation of a common Scandinavian market has also been discussed, but so far with no concrete results. And foreign policy? Mr. Wendt disposes of the subject in a brief closing chapter of four pages. Denmark, Iceland and Norway in NATO, and Sweden and Finland pursuing their respective brands of neutrality, indicates the fact that in this area cooperation has to date fallen far short of the high level of accomplishment in many other fields.

JOHN H. WUORINEN  
Columbia University

**The People of Hemsö.** By AUGUST STRINDBERG. Translated from the Swedish by Elspeth Harley-Schubert. *Bonniers*. 1959. 220 pp. Price 13.50 kronor.

Every year now Mrs. Schubert turns out a new book in English about Sweden. She is a British girl married to a Swedish insurance magnate. She lives in a lovely villa out on the *skärgård*, where she not only writes but trains her children in education, sailing, and swimming. She is herself a practitioner of most of the arts such as dancing, music, acting, painting—and religion! The latest production of this buoyant lady is a translation of August Strindberg's most cheerful work, a novel which in Sweden has reached many editions, and been translated into other languages but never until now into English. Indeed, some of Strindberg's countless manuscripts have not yet been published even in Swedish.

Strindberg's tales of the farmers and fishing folk of the Swedish archipelago where Mrs. Schubert writes and works is one of happy memory and imagination to which the translator has added a veneer of her own gracious and healthy living. This masterpiece of Strindberg interprets Swedish *levnadsglädje*, "the joy of life", and is a good antidote to the two of his grim dramas that are at present the most popular of his plays in America, *The Father* and *Miss Julie*.

H.G.L.

**Norwegian-American Studies and Records. Volume XX.** *Norwegian-American Historical Association*. Northfield, Minn. 1959. 246 pp. Price \$3.00.

With the appearance of this volume the series of *Studies and Records* has reached a full score and together with the Association's other publications comprises a veritable treasure trove of knowledge and information about Norwegian emigration and Norwegian-American life and achievement. Happily, all the previous nineteen volumes are still in print and available to libraries and interested readers. Comparing Volume XX with its predecessors, we find that the same high quality and scholastic standards have been adhered to and much new and interesting material has

been unearthed.

Edited by Professor Kenneth O. Bjork of St. Olaf College, this volume of the *Studies* opens with an essay on "Ibsen in America" by Professor Einar Haugen. Although first given as a lecture at the University of Oslo and subsequently printed in the literary periodical *Edda*, Haugen's article greatly merits inclusion. Similarly, one welcomes the appearance here of Professor Peter A. Munch's perceptive essay on "History and Sociology", first given as an address at a meeting of the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

New material on the Kendall Colony is contributed by Mario S. De Pillis, who during his researches on the Rappites and the Shakers has found a letter from seven of the "sloopers" together with a covering note by Cleng Peerson addressed to the communitarian Harmony Society in Pennsylvania embodying a request for a loan in order to purchase land. And Professor Clarence A. Clausen's translation of Elise Wærenskjold's long letter to *Morgenbladet* in Oslo, printed June 17, 18, 1852, makes available in English a highly interesting account of life in the pioneer settlements in Texas.

The Pacific Coast and Alaska are the locale of two extremely interesting and extensive autobiographical accounts: "Beating to Windward" is the narrative by Captain Otto M. Bratrud of a long life spent at sea, as edited by Professor Sverre Arestad, and "Pioneering in Alaska" contains the reminiscences of the late Dr. Knute L. Gravem, who for many years lived in Alaska's Seward Peninsula. Perhaps a bit outside the scope of the series may be the number of letters by the Norwegian labor leader Waldemar Thrane, written in Christiania in 1850 and 1851, prior to his imprisonment in Norway and later sojourn in America; they have been translated and edited by Professor Waldemar Westergaard.

The recent centenary of Norwegian studies in the United States is marked with a survey article by Hedin Bronner, which concludes with a number of recommendations that deserve earnest consideration indeed. Parts of the diary kept by Sister Elizabeth Fedde, who was active for many years at the Norwegian Lutheran

Deaconesses' Home and Hospital in Brooklyn, appears in the English translation of Beulah Folkedahl and throws much light on social conditions in the New York of the 1880's.

Included in the current volume is also a very useful classified list, by Helen Thane Katz, of all the articles that have appeared in Volumes I-XX of the *Studies*. A brief review by Professor John M. Gaus of Kenneth O. Bjork's *West of the Great Divide* has been reprinted from *Journal of Economic History*, and the usual and often consulted list of "Recent Publications", compiled by Professor Clarence A. Clausen, concludes the volume.

Although from the point of view of reader interest this volume may seem a bit uneven, it demonstrates in a telling manner how widespread geographically and how varied the work is that is being done today in the field of Norwegian-American emigrant history. It is a work of which the Association and its members can be justly proud.

ERIK J. FRIIS

**Norwegian Music—A Brief Survey.** By KRISTIAN LANGE AND ARNE ØSTVEDT. Dobson Books Ltd. London. 1958. Ill. 128 pp. Price \$4.50.

Since World War II, Børre Qvamme's slim 64-page volume, *Norwegian Music and Composers* (Bond Publishing Co. London. 1949) has been for all intents and purposes the only comprehensive English-language survey available on the general subject of music and musicians of Norway. While Qvamme's coverage of the pre-Grieg era was remarkably good, considering its brevity, his treatment of the modern era left much to be desired.

Now we have an up-to-date survey, whose senior author, Kristian Lange, is currently Musical Program Director of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (*Norsk Rikskringkasting*). Compared to what we should like to see in the way of a survey devoted to the music of a given nationality (viz. Gilbert Chase's *America's Music*. McGraw-Hill. New York. 1955), the Lange-Østvedt opus is still fairly sketchy. Nevertheless, more than fifty composers are cov-

ered from Waldemar Thrane and Ole Bull 150 years ago to Fartein Valen and Finn Mortensen in our own day.

There is also a chapter on the folk music tradition as it relates to Norwegian art-music, as well as one dealing with present-day Norwegian concert artists and musical institutions. The authors plainly share a high opinion of Norway's one atonal master, the late Fartein Valen, and justly so; but they also do a fine job in placing such distinguished contemporaries as Sæverud, Egge, Irgens Jensen, Brustad, Groven, Tveitt and Kielland into proper perspective.

Until such time as a genuinely scholarly survey in depth is done for English-speaking readers, covering the music of Scandinavia and Finland, volumes such as this will continue to serve their very useful purpose; but for the present, the job still remains a task half done.

DAVID HALL

**Four Stories.** By SIGRID UNDSET. Translated from the Norwegian by Naomi Walford. Knopf. 1959. 248 pp. Price \$3.75.

The major works of Sigrid Undset, the Norwegian Nobel Prize-winner, may have been her prose epics set in medieval Norway, but she also wrote a series of contemporary novels and short stories. A number of these modern novels have appeared in English translation, and happily, we are now being offered a volume containing English translations of four of her longer short stories.

Tales of simple people, these stories are set in the Christiania of fifty years ago. Most of the stories are concerned with older people who feel useless and unwanted. As in her other books, the author shows her unexcelled ability to delineate human personality and individuality, and she always writes with poignancy and compassion.

On reading these stories one is certain to be absorbed by the literary skill of one of the most gifted Scandinavian authors of all time. The translation by Naomi Walford is in complete rapport.

AGNES BROWN LEACH



## BOOK NOTES

Sweden has one of the world's most advanced tax systems, according to *Taxation in Sweden*, which, like four previous volumes in the World Tax Series, was prepared by the staff of Harvard Law School's International Program in Taxation, in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat. With a high standard of living and a well-developed industrial structure, Sweden has more taxpayers than many countries vastly larger in size, the resumé continues. While tax rates are high, Sweden's tax provisions give business taxpayers a degree of flexibility in the determination of taxable income that is scarcely matched elsewhere in the world. To an unusual extent Sweden's tax structure reflects an effort to use taxation not only as a revenue device but also as an instrument of economic policy designed to enlist private capital in the task of leveling the business cycle. Some features of the Swedish system: 1) The corporate tax rate has just been reduced from 50 to 40 per cent. 2) Rules governing depreciation of machinery and equipment are probably the most flexible and the most liberal of any industrial country. 3) A corporation may deduct from taxable income up to 40 per cent of its pre-tax income for allocation to an investment reserve for economic stabilization. No government permission is required. The theory is that the deduction will be made in the years when the economy is running at a high level; when the economy slows up, the reserve may be used—here, however, government permission is required—by the taxpayer, free of tax, for the construction of new plants and for similar employment-creating projects. 4) Long-term capital gains are tax-free.

*Taxation in Sweden* (1959. 725 pp. Price \$17.50), which was published by Little, Brown & Company in Boston, is the first book in the English language to give a complete and authoritative survey of the Swedish tax system. The introductory chapter, which contains a general survey, is followed by a summary presentation of the integrated national and local income taxes. The detailed analysis of the income tax covers nine chapters, including one on the international aspects of income taxation.

Dreyers Forlag in Oslo has started publication of a bimonthly review named *The Norseman*. Printed in English, its aim is "not to glorify, but to inform" the outside world about economic, social, political and cultural developments in Norway. The editor of the handsomely illustrated periodical is Johan Hambro, Secretary-General of Nordmanns-Forbundet. (Dreyers Forlag, Arbiensgt. 7, Oslo. Price \$3.00 a year). The new review is named after and will continue the traditions of *The Norseman* which was published in London from 1943 to 1958. The defunct review did an outstanding job during World War II by presenting the Norwegian heritage to the free world. Subsequently, under the editorship of Herman Lehmkuhl, the scope was broadened to cover developments in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden as well as in Norway.

A contest arranged in Norway some years ago for the best book for young people was won by Lieutenant-Colonel Leif Hamre with his story entitled *Otter tre to kaller!* It met with immediate success and has now been translated into English by Evelyn Ramsden and published under the title *Leap Into Danger*. The book, ideally suited for boys of 12 and up, deals with two members of the Norwegian Air Force in North Norway who met with disaster, with their struggle for survival, and with the operations of the Air Rescue Service. (Harcourt, Brace. 1959. 156 pp. Price \$2.95).

*World Affairs: Problems and Prospects* is a new textbook in the international relations field which provides a splendid introduction to the nature of world problems and an appreciation of their complexity. Based on the "problems approach" and an interdisciplinary view of the subject matter, this volume will be a stimulating guide to the study of, and reflection on, the contemporary world crisis, its many attendant problems and their possible solution. The four authors, Elton Atwater, William Butz, Kent Forster and Neal Riemer, are all on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University. (Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1958. 621 pp. Price \$6.95).



# EGIL'S SAGA

*Translated by GWYN JONES*

Here is one of the great narratives of Old Iceland, the 'family saga' of the Myramen. Heroic figures moving against a background of violence and dramatic life-and-death struggle, the men of this great family live through the conflict between the old patriarchal traditions and the medieval impact of rising royal power.

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The well-known Swedish photographer Anna Riwkin-Brick has supplied the many beautiful pictures which appear in *Eva Visits Noriko-San*. This charming picture book tells the story of a little Swedish girl who flew to Japan where she visited the home of a Japanese girl. The remarkable photographs and the captions will be certain to hold the attention of children and will tell them much about the everyday life of boys and girls in Japan. (Macmillan. Price \$2.50).

In *Atomic Physics and Human Knowledge* the famed Danish physicist Niels Bohr has collected seven essays originally delivered as lectures during the period 1932-57. Reflecting the author's attitude toward the nature of man and man's concept of the physical world, the essays illuminate the development of nuclear physics and the relationship between scientific explanation and traditional philosophy (John Wiley. 1958. 101 pp. Price \$3.95). The volume is a sequel to earlier essays published in 1934 under the title *Atomic Theory and the Description of Nature*.

Belated attention is called to a first-rate book for older boys published some time ago, namely *The Wonderful Boat* by the Swedish-born writer Gösta Larsson. All teenagers will see a little of themselves in this story of a boy and his boat and how his experiences taught him what it means to be a skipper. The illustrations by Bernard Case admirably catch the flavor of a Swedish town. (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. New York. 1957. 219 pp. Price \$3.00).

*Crane Hook on the Delaware 1667-1699* by Jeannette Eckman is an excellent historical treatise on the founding and growth of this early Swedish Lutheran church and community. The Crane Hook Church, a log building, was built in 1667 in the midst of plantations and woodlands south of the Christina River, but in 1699 it was superseded by Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, today the oldest of the remaining church buildings in the former Swedish settlements on the Delaware. The present study, which also traces the beginnings of

New Sweden from 1638, carefully sifts the sources and is a scholarly and highly interesting contribution to the history of this part of the Delaware River Valley. The book has been published for the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society by the Institute of Delaware History and Culture at the University of Delaware. (1958. 149 pp. With maps, and drawings by Walter Stewart. Price \$3.50 paper bound).

*Thorvald's Plan* by Alison Cross of Berkshire, England, is a vivid and entertaining story that will appeal to all young readers. Set in North Norway about 150 years ago, the tale concerns two youngsters who, with the assistance of a Lapp boy, carry out an ambitious plan to help their parents by buying the title to their farm. The book also gives a lively and colorful impression of the customs, traditions and ways of life in the Far North during the early nineteenth century. (St. Martin's Press. 1959. 120 pp. Drawings by Denise Bates. Price \$2.50).

Annette Turngren, who has a series of immensely popular children's books to her credit, tells in *Flaxen Braids* of two Swedish youngsters and their eventful life in northern Sweden in the old days. This new and revised edition of a book first published over twenty years ago will provide boys and girls of the age group 8-12 with hours of delightful reading. The illustrations by Polly Jackson have also caught the spirit of a real Swedish childhood. (Prentice-Hall. 1959. 197 pp. Price \$2.95).

One rollicking adventure follows another in *Pippi in the South Seas*, the latest story by Astrid Lindgren to appear in English. What this time befalls Pippi Longstocking and her friends Tommy and Annika makes for a story that is partly absurd and partly fantastic but hugely entertaining and told with that special blend of crispness and verve that has made Miss Lindgren a favorite author of the age group 8-12. The present tale has been ably translated from the Swedish by Gerry Bothmer and has been illustrated by Louis S. Glanzman. (Viking Press. 1959. 126 pp. Price \$2.00).



# LASSO ROUND THE MOON

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In the newly initiated "My Village" series Pantheon Books Inc. aims to acquaint American youngsters with the way of life of boys and girls all over the world. A recent volume in this uniformly attractive series is *My Village in Norway* by Sonia and Tim Gidal. Through the beautifully integrated text and pictures young readers will get an intimate knowledge and understanding of the life of a Norwegian boy, his family and his friends in a fishing village on the west coast of Norway. (1958. 78 pp. Price \$3.50).

One of the most famous tales of Hans Christian Andersen, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, has been newly translated, with skill and sensitivity, by Erik Blegvad and published in book form with the charming drawings by the translator. (Harcourt, Brace. 1959. 32 pp. Price \$3.00). This lovely little book, which will appeal equally to children and collectors of fine books, is a sequel to *The Swineherd*, also translated and illustrated by Mr. Blegvad.

The addresses given by distinguished scholars and educators in conjunction with the inauguration of Dr. Charles E. Odegaard as President of the University of Washington in November, 1958, have been made available in book form under the title *Men and Learning in Modern Society*. Each one of the ten addresses is indeed an important contribution toward understanding problems and trends in the academic world. (University of Washington Press. 1959. 193 pp. Price \$5.00).

*The Way to Danish* by Erling Norlev and H. A. Koefoed is an excellent and well organized text-book for the study of the Danish language. The thirty chapters of the book tell one continuous story of "real, living people" in Denmark, to which are added exercises, grammatical explanations, and word lists. Especially written for courses given in America, the book can also very profitably be used for self-study. (Ejnar Munksgaard. Copenhagen, 1959. 306 pp. Price 36 kroner).



Better late than never, Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra are at last bringing to performance the Suite No. 1 from the *Peer Gynt* Incidental Music by Norway's foremost living composer, Harald Sæverud. Mr. Ormandy had planned to perform Sæverud's controversial score back in 1951 for a special New York concert to mark the inauguration of the ASF Music Center, but changed his plans at the last moment. The belated New York premiere of the *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1 took place on April 26. During the 1956-57 New York music season, the Little Orchestra Society under Thomas C. Scherman's baton performed extended excerpts from Sæverud's vividly colorful 1948 score with the noted actress Peggy Wood as narrator. Unlike Grieg's familiar and well loved *Peer Gynt* music, which emphasizes the romantic and exotic aspects of Ibsen's drama, Sæverud has chosen to underline with great effect the satirical and grotesque. An inquiry directed by this writer to Columbia Records, which records the Philadelphia Orchestra, indicates that it is too much to expect an Ormandy recording of Sæverud's *Peer Gynt* at this time. However, release by Columbia of *Aniara*, the sensational "space" opera by Sweden's Karl-Birger Blomdahl, is very likely during 1960. The recording was done in Vienna with principals from the Stockholm premiere about a year ago.

Robert Riefling, noted Norwegian concert pianist, gave a cordially received recital in New York's Town Hall early this spring, devoted in greater measure to classics of Bach and Beethoven, but concluding with fascinating short pieces by such twentieth-century Norwegian moderns as Valen, Sæverud and Egge.

A number of well-known Scandinavian composers are expected to visit these shores during the late spring and summer, notably Harald Sæverud from Norway and Karl-

Birger Blomdahl from Sweden. This will be Blomdahl's first visit to the U.S. since he was an ASF fellow more than a half-dozen years ago. He will be attending a symposium on advanced music conducted by the Princeton University Music Department.

Recording prospects for twentieth-century Scandinavian music appear to be on the rise once more. The Louisville Orchestra, as part of its contemporary music commission series has just issued a disc of Klaus Egge's Symphony No. 3, commissioned on the occasion of his visit here in 1955. This marks the third major Scandinavian orchestral work to be issued as part of the Louisville Commissioning Series, the others being the Louisville Concerto by Sweden's Hilding Rosenberg and the Pezzi Sinfonici by Niels Viggo Bentzon of Denmark. Those wishing to obtain these records can write for information to the Louisville Philharmonic Society, S. Fourth Street, Louisville, Ky.

A new Sibelius series seems to be in the making on the Everest label, which has brought out the Violin Concerto with Tossy Spivakowsky as soloist and Tauno Hainikainen, Director of the Helsinki City Symphony, conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. The disc also includes the master's last major work the tone-poem *Tapiola*.

We are also promised a Carl Nielsen symphony series from Vox Records with Carl Garaguly conducting the Tivoli Orchestra of Copenhagen in all six works in that form by the great Danish composer. Symphony No. 2 ("The Four Temperaments"), never before available on lp, is the first scheduled release of the series.

Last but far from least, our readers should know that Finn Viderø, renowned Danish organist, who has just completed a visiting professorship at Yale, is now represented on Washington Records with the first three discs of a monumental complete recording of the organ music of Diderik Buxtehude, the great Danish-born predecessor of J. S. Bach as a master of organ virtuosity and composition.

DAVID HALL



*IAL Reinstates Stavanger Flights—  
Prepares for Record Season*

Icelandic Airlines has announced that Stavanger has been reinstated among their ports of call in Scandinavia, with direct flights leaving from New York for the West-Norwegian coast city once a week.

The company has now placed in service its two new DC-6B airliners, one of which was named, as previously announced, *Leifr Eiríksson*, and the other has been christened *Snorri Sturluson*, to commemorate the medieval Icelandic historian and saga writer.

With heavy bookings on all spring and summer flights, Icelandic Airlines looks forward to a banner season. Moreover, with the inauguration on April 29 of weekly flights to Helsinki, IAL offers an air route affording maximum savings to those desiring to visit Eastern as well as Northern Europe. The flights for Helsinki depart every Friday afternoon, using the DC-6B airliners. En route, passengers may take advantage of stop-over privileges in Oslo. The new IAL service to Helsinki will also provide vacationists with an opportunity to enjoy circle tours via Finnair of the nations bordering the Baltic, including Russia. Such tours, however, may best be arranged through travel agents.

*Coming Events in Denmark*

Among the many events in Denmark this summer one might perhaps especially single out the Viking Festival in Frederikssund from June 18 to July 3, and the fascinating demonstration of Stone Age life and peasant life around the year 1800 at the Heath of Hjerl, near the town of Skive in Jutland. Also, the Bellahøj Livestock Show and Agricultural Fair will take place in Copenhagen from June 30 to July 3, and on July 4 American Independence Day will again be celebrated at Rebild National Park. Then, in September and October the 1960 Scandinavian Design Cavalcade will be shown in Copenhagen.

*Tours in Iceland*

Iceland is no longer a distant and isolated country—on the contrary, it is now a center on the highway between the Old and the New World. By air (Icelandic Airlines) one can now reach Iceland in about ten hours from New York; Great Britain is only four hours away, and the Continent six or seven hours distant in flying time (by Icelandic Airlines and Icelandair). Modern and fast-going ships also take the tourist to Iceland in three or four days from the European Continent.

Perhaps the first thing that strikes the traveler is the absence of railways in Iceland. But this is compensated for by a net of roads radiating from Reykjavik and linking together most of the inhabited districts and even stretching into the uninhabited interior of the island.

Modern aircraft (Icelandair) and buses provide daily regular service to all important places of interest, and comfortable passenger boats are cruising all summer long around the coasts. A number of interesting tours, to volcanoes, glaciers, scenic wonders, geysers and lava fields, have been scheduled for the coming summer months. Of from a half to several days' duration, these tours are not only inexpensive but will prove to be among the most absorbing and unusual trips one can take anywhere. For further information one should contact the Iceland Tourist Bureau, Gimli, Lækjargata, Reykjavik.

*Modern Air Terminal and Hotel  
Open at Søndre Strømfjord*

A modern air terminal and hotel, with a spectacular view of one of nature's greatest wonders, has been opened at Søndre Strømfjord, Greenland, according to Scandinavian Airlines System.

The million-dollar terminal near the icecap has been constructed by the Royal Greenland Trade Department to meet the demands of increasing traffic on the airline's route between Europe and the U.S. West Coast.

SAS this spring will introduce DC-8 jetliners on the transpolar route which it pioneered in 1954. Søndre Strømfjord is the one intermediate stop.



### SAS Announces New Excursion Fares

A special jet excursion economy round trip fare between New York and Copenhagen has been announced by Scandinavian Airlines System subject to government approval.

The new fare was agreed on at a special meeting of the IATA Traffic Conference in Paris. The excursion fares on the North Atlantic represent a saving of \$112.60 under the lowest round trip fares now being offered. They will be available between October 1 and March 31 and have a validity of seventeen days. During the same period, similar round trip excursion fares on propeller driven aircraft will be available at \$30.00 less than jet fare. The IATA Conference also agreed on a one-way first class fare between New York and Copenhagen from May 1 applicable both on jets and on piston engine first class flights offering sleeper seating and on propeller driven aircraft offering normal seating.

### Fishing Festival in Stavanger

The International Fishing Festival in Stavanger August 17-20 sounds fascinating and will undoubtedly be an unusually pleasant event. The Stavanger Deep Sea Fishing Club has been in existence for several years, and the little fishing harbor of Tananger, right next to town, is ideal for an event of this sort, picturesque and unusual, with fishing grounds right outside and a charming hotel (*Hummeren*—"The Lobster"). The fishing grounds at Tananger are so full of fish that the fishing club has been able to operate under a "no fish, no pay" system, and has not had to go without pay yet. In the international fishing contest in Næstved, Denmark, last year, the Belgian Prince Baudouin de Linge took part, among others, and Stavanger also expects many fishing enthusiasts to appear at the festival. Stavanger has a group of wonderful hotels, colorful and tempting restaurants, and a number of fine attractions, including a viking ship and a fantastic trip with the Fjord Clipper to the Lysefjord. And should one not come to Stavanger during the festival, the Stavanger Deep Sea Fishing Club will take one out anytime on the 45 ft. *Sea Queen*. A four-hour tour costs only 12 kroner per person and includes guide, oil skins and gear.



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*Colorful Information on Sweden*

A new booklet, *Sweden*, distributed by the Swedish National Travel Office, brings you right into the heart of Sweden—and Sweden right into your heart! It is edited in the form of a letter from the Jones family, "typical of the countless Americans with an insatiable urge to see new lands" and it has the light touch that makes Sweden's sights and pleasures come alive to the reader. With abundant color pictures illustrating their journey, the Joneses take you to the city of Stockholm, where you might bump into members of the Royal family when you go shopping; they go sailing in the Stockholm archipelago; see the miracle play performed in the ruins of medieval Visby; attend the Midsummer celebrations around Lake Siljan with Maypole dancing until sunrise; they travel from Lapland's midnight sun right down to the legendary Chateau Country in the very south of Sweden.

The Swedish National Travel Office can furnish also three brand new regional color brochures: *Sunny Southern Sweden*, *The Swedish Lake District* and *Northern Sweden*, all richly illustrated.

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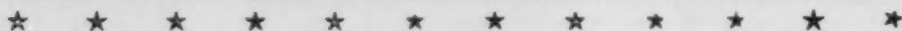
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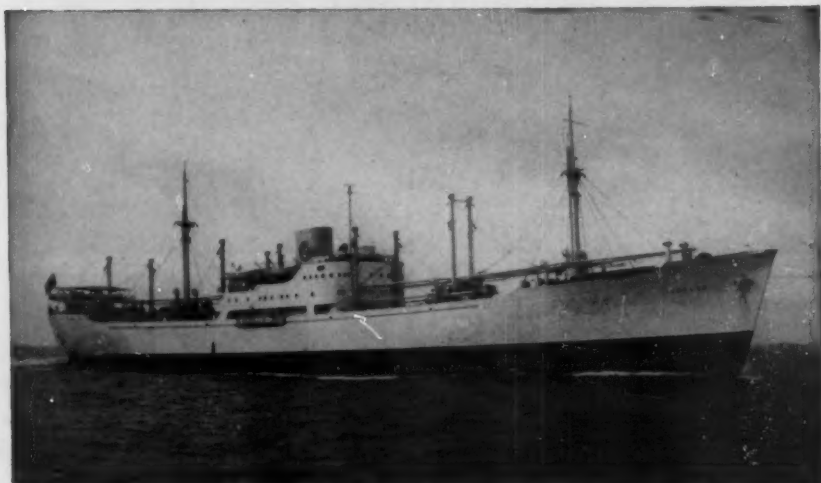


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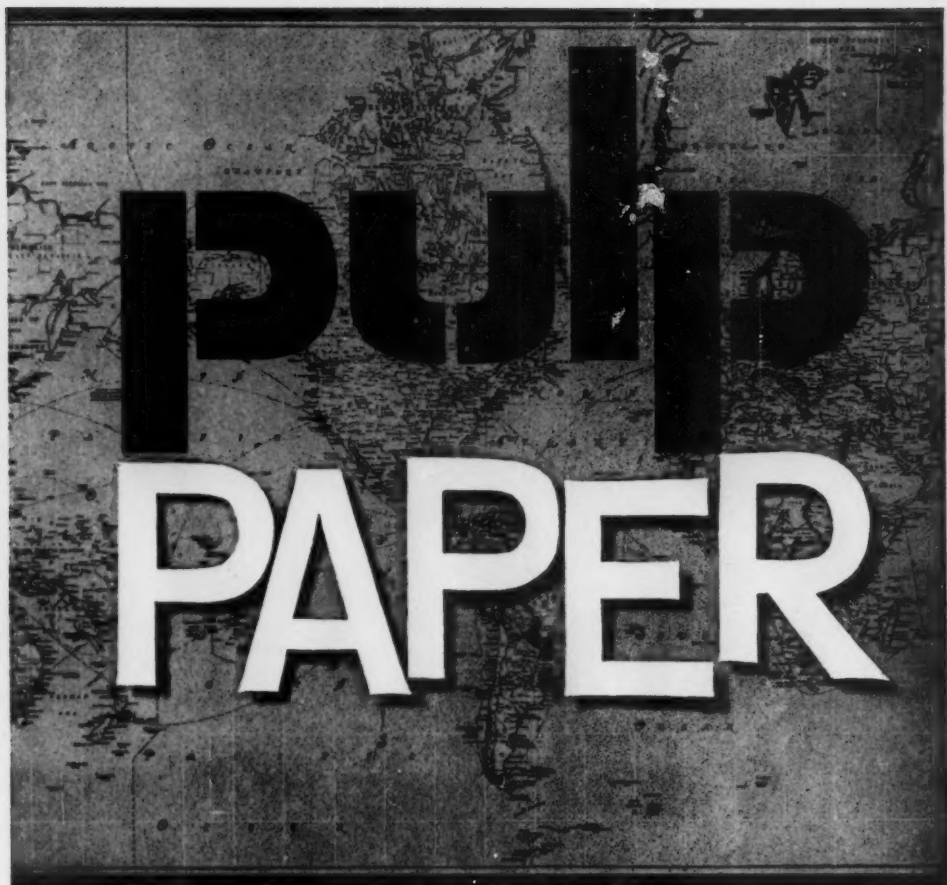
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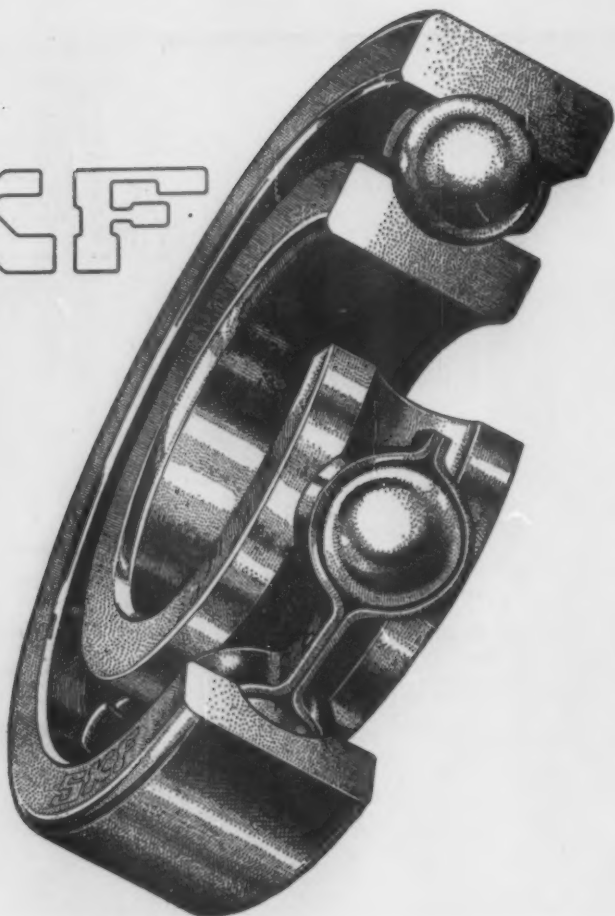
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